

Unable to get any satisfactory intel-
ligence about the country I was to in-
habit, I set out at the solicitation of
my relations, who were impatient to get
me out of town, with an intention to
look for an abode when I came into
Wales. The undertaking was some-
what wild, and rather too much for the
spirit of one who had hitherto to great
advantage followed the beaten track of
the law.

THE HISTORY

OF
SIR GEORGE ELLISON.

Sir GEORGE ELLISON.

Never having been used to the coun-
try, I had little cause for regret that
I was in a country where I was
stranger than I found in it, for the
place was the last place where I had
been a respectable lodging for the price
I could afford to give, and any town

Vol. II

THE

HISTORY

OF

SIR GEORGE ELLISON

HISTORY



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Vol. II

LONDON

Printed for A. MILLAR, in the Strand

MDCCLXVI

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OF
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THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir GEORGE ELLISON.
BOOK III. CHAP. IV.

THE pleasure of seeing others happy is so great, that we cannot wonder if Mr. Ellison passed a good deal of time in a society, where every individual enjoyed the felicity of her situation with sensibility and gratitude. But the pleasure he received at Millenium-Hall was a little interrupted by a letter from his brother; who acquainting him with several losses he had suffered in trade, informed him of his intention of paying to him immediately the money he had lent him; fearing, that if his

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bad

bad fortune continued, he might not long have it in his power.

Mr. Ellifon was concerned for his brother's bad success, but not in the least disturbed about his own money; he, therefore, in his answer, insisted on not being payed off, encouraging his brother to hope for a turn in his favour. His brother's letter was not unaccompanied with good news, for he received assurances therein of his steward's excellent conduct, and the happiness of his Negroes; which was confirmed by Mrs. Reynolds, and Mrs. Ellifon. Nothing could yield him higher satisfaction, as it was a thing next his heart; and in the joy these accounts gave him, the probable loss of ten thousand pounds seemed scarcely to deserve his attention; though for his brother's sake he was anxious for his prosperity, but not to so great a degree, as if he had not been blessed with the power of making his circumstances easy, if fortune should deny him success in traffic.

Mr. Ellison was prevailed upon to prolong his stay beyond the time he at first intended ; and received so much pleasure from his visit, that he would probably have made it still longer, if he had not considered his return home as a duty. He was sensible, that a person could not do much good, but by regularly abiding in one place ; and feared some of the objects of his care might suffer from his too long absence.

When he came home, he had the mortification to find Mr. Blackburn and his son again as much at variance as ever ; which grieved him the more, as he thought it might not have happened, had he continued at his own house ; and he could scarcely excuse to his conscience a proper care of his health, if another were to be a sufferer thereby. He saw little hope of a reconciliation ; the old gentleman was so disgusted with his son's incorrigible vices, and repeated indiscretions, that he

would not listen to an accommodation, which he knew could be of no continuance; nor did he take well Mr. Ellison's urging what would certainly expose him to new vexations; and, indeed, even the motive which actuated Mr. Ellison could scarcely excuse his earnestness in promoting a reconciliation, that must, by the young man's imprudence, be soon broken, and the old man's peace again disturbed, in the little time he could expect to remain in this world.

In this exertion of benevolence, Mr. Ellison, therefore, was disappointed; but in other particulars, he was gratified to his wish. He had the pleasure of seeing his son and the young Granthams advance fast in their learning, and improve in every respect; and received Mr. and Mrs. Grantham's joyful acquiescence, in his desire of sending their daughters to the first school his good friends of Millenium-hall set up at London, for which he equipped them in a proper manner.

Mr.

Mr. Ellison had not been long returned home, before the season of the year came for his jail-delivery ; which he performed with more than common pleasure, as the sum Sir William Ellison put into his hands for that purpose, enabled him to release many more than usual, and to provide better for them after they were set at liberty. The employ was thus rendered extremely delightful to him, being freed from the pain he sometimes felt before, at the necessity he was under of leaving some poor wretches under confinement, for want of a sufficient fund to discharge them ; but he now was not only enabled to relieve all, but even extended his tour to two or three more towns than he had hitherto visited.

On his return homewards, he was met by a messenger from Mr. Blackburn, who desired his immediate presence ; and for that reason had dispatched a person to meet him on the road. The old gentleman

had been seized with a stroke of the palsy, which for two days had deprived him of his speech and senses; and though he recovered them at the end of that term, yet his case did not appear less desperate. The arrival of Mr. Ellifon seemed for a little time to give him a new being. He told him, that ‘ his utmost wish was now
‘ gratified: he had enjoyed a long life,
‘ wherein he had possessed a sufficient
‘ number of blessings to excite his grati-
‘ tude to Him who had bestowed, and
‘ granted him so long an enjoyment of
‘ them; yet had suffered too many vexa-
‘ tions in the world, not to be willing to
‘ leave it: at his age, every day must di-
‘ minish his satisfactions here; but he had
‘ strong hopes, that in the other world,
‘ they would be increasing through all eter-
‘ nity. That from the time he recovered
‘ to a sense of his danger, he had only
‘ wished his life might be prolonged till
‘ he came: as he never met with a man
‘ so deserving of his esteem, he had never
‘ felt

‘ felt so warm a friendship for any man as
 ‘ for him, and therefore was desirous to
 ‘ see him once more ; but he had still a
 ‘ stronger motive for the impatience with
 ‘ which he waited his arrival, and that
 ‘ was to obtain his promise of punctually
 ‘ performing the will, of which he had
 ‘ made him executor.’

‘ Of that, my excellent and respectable
 ‘ friend,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘ enter-
 ‘ tain not a doubt ; you may afflict me by
 ‘ your will, but no one can make me dis-
 ‘ obey it. I look upon a due observance
 ‘ of the disposition people make in that
 ‘ manner of their affairs, as one of the
 ‘ great duties of society ; and so necessary,
 ‘ that even for good purposes, no exam-
 ‘ ples should be set of violating that trust,
 ‘ lest we thereby contribute to render it
 ‘ disregarded. The power of making a
 ‘ will is a valuable privilege ; and as it is
 ‘ a right of which no one in our lives can
 ‘ deprive us, so no one after our deaths
 ‘ ought to render it ineffectual. On my
 ‘ obedience

‘obedience to the commands therein contained, you may therefore firmly depend; but give me leave to say, that I hope there is nothing in it that can bring on my friend the imputation of being deficient in placability, in that forgiving temper, which ought to be the constant state of our minds; but most of all in our last moments, when, as we are near approaching that throne where we must all kneel for pardon, we ought more especially to have our hearts filled with the mercy, which we are told will be the measure of that we shall receive.’

‘I understand you perfectly, my dear Ellifon,’ replied Mr. Blackburn; ‘I find nothing can restrain your benevolence and generosity, not even the fear of disturbing my last moments, though you have always shewn an ardent care for my happiness and ease. I know not what construction may be put on my will; but believe me, whatever may be thought to imply resentment against my son, is done out of care for him. My
‘fortune

‘ fortune would only increase his vices,
‘ and add to the distress of his wife and
‘ children, who would feel the want his
‘ extravagance must bring upon them but
‘ more severely, for knowing how far his
‘ fortune should set them above it. The
‘ larger his scale of expence, the greater
‘ debts he would incur ; and the heavier
‘ would be their sufferings: His fortune
‘ is already sufficient to afford them afflu-
‘ ence ; but his temper would not suffer
‘ them to enjoy it, were he possessed of
‘ millions. His children will find I have
‘ been just ; and in the mean time, the
‘ person who will come into the present
‘ enjoyment, will make the use of it I
‘ could wish, by applying it to the relief
‘ of virtuous distress, instead of squander-
‘ ing it in vice and folly. But no more,
‘ I beg, on this subject ; it may suffice for
‘ your ease on my account, that I give you
‘ my word, I harbour no resentment in
‘ my heart against any person whatsoever,
‘ but am in real charity with all ; and
‘ think, with pleasure, that in committing
‘ those

‘ those to whom I wish well to your care
‘ and friendship, I leave them the greatest
‘ blessing I have to bestow.’

Mr. Ellison was extremely affected by the melancholy condition Mr. Blackburn was in, and not less so by the tenderness of his friendship ; but he concealed his sensations as much as possible, from a fear of embittering the last moments of his friend, who beheld his approaching dissolution with much more composure and satisfaction, than Mr. Ellison could with his utmost endeavours assume the appearance of. As the fatal moment was continually expected, he sat up with him that night, and found great reason to admire his courage and resignation, whenever his intervals of ease would suffer him to converse : but the next day closed the scene, and the worthy man expired in Mr. Ellison’s arms ; whose affliction nothing could repress, but the desire of being useful and assisting to his excellent friend, to the last verge of life.

The day following, young Mr. Blackburn, and some other relations and friends being present, the will of the deceased was opened, by which it appeared, that, after specifying some legacies to his servants, and particular friends, he had left his whole estate to Mr. Ellison for his life; and at his death, provided the eldest of Mr. Blackburn's sons had reached the age of twenty-eight, it was to go to him. If Mr. Ellison died before that time, another gentleman was nominated to succeed to the estate, till young Blackburn attained that age.

This disposition of affairs gave less offence to the sufferers than may at first be imagined; for after the treatment Mr. Blackburn had received from his son, no person supposed he would ever inherit any part of his fortune; and many feared that even his children would be excluded: he himself had entertained the same apprehensions, but was little concerned about

their interests; nor could one much wonder if a man, destitute of true affection for himself, was not very fond of his children. His thoughtless nature was at this time an advantage to him, as it prevented his behaving with the indecency which might otherwise be expected; and he was sensible Mr. Ellison had so industriously endeavoured to cultivate the necessary harmony between him and his father, that he had no title to shew any resentment against him; who, before he left the house, told Mr. Blackburn, ‘as, contrary to his own wishes, he was become heir to the greatest part of the family-estate, he hoped he would give him leave to consider himself as the father of the young gentlemen who were in the succession.’ In the language of a true blood, Mr. Blackburn gave his consent, and therefore I shall not repeat the terms: the request appeared to him too trifling to deserve a refusal; he well knew he would not take any care of them himself, but if any one else chose to do it, he had no objection.

jection. To his dogs and horses he paid much attention and attendance, but children were insignificant things, below his thought; and the kindest appellation they ever received from him, was that of cursed brats.

Mr. Ellison was so quick in the performance of what he had offered, that he sent all the children mourning, and desired their presence at their grandfather's funeral. He remained at the house, not only till that ceremony was performed, but till he had settled every thing relative to the estate, placed proper persons in the house to take care of it, examined into all the repairs that were wanting, discharged the legacies, and put every thing into order.

He would not expressly contradict his friend's will; but was from the first determined to be no gainer by it, at least in the pecuniary way: for the satisfaction which arises from a generous action, must make him in reality a greater gainer, by the

the power put into his hands. He considered himself only as steward to the family; and purposed keeping a very regular account of the receipts and disbursements. The will was so expressed, as left him at entire liberty, even in regard to repairs; the old gentleman knowing, that no cautions were requisite: and his confidence was well placed. Mr. Ellison determined to keep the house, gardens, and park, in as exact order as ever they had been; both for the sake of the next heir, and the labouring poor of the parish, to whom it furnished some employ. All the charities Mr. Blackburn had bestowed, he thought it his duty to continue, and in some degree increase, in order to compensate the loss the neighbouring poor must suffer, by the death of a person who spent so large an income amongst them. One of the methods he took for that purpose, was to give leave to any of the labourers that pleased, to keep a cow on part of his ground, which he appropriated to that purpose. He easily obtained permission to send to the best schools, all such of Mr.
Black-

Blackburn's children, of either sex, as were of an age to be taken from their mother's care, who, though a good woman, was so ignorant, that they could obtain no improvement from her; and the company her husband brought home, were very unfit persons for young people to be accustomed to see. These children he entirely maintained. He wished to provide for Mrs. Blackburn's convenience, but that could not be done, except in secret; he therefore prevailed on her to suffer him to remit privately to her an hundred and fifty pounds every quarter; which, with what her husband might spare her, would enable her to discharge their domestic expences, and keep off all debts on that score; and yet if prudently managed, remain unsuspected by him, so very inattentive was he to his affairs. After the discharge of all these articles, whatever surplus of income remained, he determined to lay by, suffering both principal and interest to accumulate for the benefit of the younger children; fully resolved not to appropriate the least part to his own use.

This

This intention however he concealed within his own breast, till Sir William Ellison pressed him so much on the uses he designed to make of this increase of income, that he could not avoid communicating the plan he had formed. Sir William, according to his usual custom, *wondered* much at his denying himself a share in the inheritance. The care he took of the children, and of Mrs. Blackburn, he approved; but saw no reason for his not enjoying the overplus. He was still more *surprized* at his keeping this intention secret. ‘If I denied myself the money,’ said he, ‘I would at least have the honour of my self-denial.’ ‘I much question,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘whether I should get any honour by it, were it known; for possibly more might blame, than approve my conduct; but my own conscience, not the opinion of others, ought to be my guide; and by that I am directed in this point. My worthy deceased friend left me his fortune, because he thought

‘ thought I should make a good use of it,
‘ in preference to his heir at law, who he
‘ knew would make a bad one: herein
‘ I think he acted laudably. To give a
‘ great fortune to a vicious man is like
‘ putting a sword or pistol into the hands
‘ of a lunatic; the consequences must be
‘ pernicious; and therefore the benevo-
‘ lent regard due to mankind in general,
‘ forbids our doing either. I could not
‘ have possessed so high a place in Mr.
‘ Blackburn’s esteem, if he had not been
‘ well convinced that I would take good
‘ care of his grand-children; and his ge-
‘ nerosity inclined him to think, that the
‘ remainder of the income of his estate,
‘ was not too high a recompence for the
‘ care of them and their fortunes. But I
‘ should fall much short of him in gene-
‘ rosity, if I was not of a different opi-
‘ nion. My care and trouble will be over-
‘ paid, by the pleasure of acquitting some
‘ part of the debt of gratitude I owe him
‘ for so sincere a friendship; and in the
‘ satisfaction arising from doing service to
‘ a family,

‘ a family, who have the misfortune of be-
‘ ing injured by the person whom nature
‘ designed for their protector. Thus I
‘ best fulfil my friend’s intention ; for I
‘ could no way so well employ the income
‘ with which he has intrusted me, as by
‘ dedicating it to those, who I have no
‘ reason to doubt will deserve it as well,
‘ probably much better than myself, and
‘ have likewise a kind of natural and
‘ legal right to it. But however pre-
‘ valent these considerations may be with
‘ me, to others they may appear so insuffi-
‘ cient, as might prevent my receiving the
‘ honour you suppose from my conduct.
‘ Yet were that honour certain, it would
‘ only dispose me to a more inviolable se-
‘ crecy. Vanity is so natural to the hu-
‘ man heart, that, as far as possible, I wish
‘ to avoid every thing that can excite it in
‘ mine. Where an action may have vari-
‘ ous consequences, it is very difficult to
‘ be sure of our motives to perform it.
‘ If we know we shall obtain praise, it is
‘ too probable that the desire of it will
‘ have

‘ have its share in determining us to under-
‘ take whatever may produce it. Not that
‘ I entirely condemn ambition to be ap-
‘ proved ; it is inseparable from benevo-
‘ lence : if we love mankind, we must va-
‘ lue their good opinion ; but though fre-
‘ quently unblamable, it is always danger-
‘ ous. Vanity grows imperceptibly ; and
‘ those who would not have it become one
‘ of their chief motives to good actions,
‘ should often mortify and repress it ; and
‘ always, when they can, set it aside.
‘ While unknown to others, I act accord-
‘ ing to the dictates of my conscience, my
‘ motive can scarcely be wrong ; the sin-
‘ gleness of my intention delivers me from
‘ all scruples. Here my satisfaction is
‘ pure and unmixed ; my conscience speaks
‘ peace to my heart. In a right action that
‘ is public, and applauded, my pleasure is
‘ rendered imperfect, by a fear lest a de-
‘ sire of approbation might have some share
‘ in producing it ; or that this approba-
‘ tion, when gained, may by flattering in-
‘ crease my vanity. In one case I enjoy
‘ the pleasure reflection yields me with
‘ peace

‘ peace and security ; in the other, I am
‘ afraid of giving way to it, and scarcely
‘ dare reflect ; because the satisfaction arising from being applauded, will insinuate
‘ itself into my heart. On this account,
‘ I own, my reason rejoices when any right
‘ thing I do is censured or ridiculed, as
‘ frequently you know happens ; the position is a little bitter, but I am sure it is
‘ salutary ; and the more disagreeable I feel
‘ it, the more sensible I am it is necessary.
‘ My sensations on this subject are not
‘ very acute ; but till I arrive at a total
‘ indifference, I hope I shall meet with
‘ this exercise of my sincerity.’

‘ Faith, George,’ replied Sir William,
‘ thou art a very provoking fellow. Is it
‘ not enough to have made me relinquish
‘ at least half a dozen of my most favourite
‘ opinions ; but when I begin to think
‘ myself almost as good, and as ridiculous
‘ as thou art, then comes some high-flown,
‘ fine-spun notion, that beats to the ground
‘ all my self-satisfaction ; and I feel myself
‘ self crawling on the earth, while you
‘ seem

‘ seem soaring almost to an imperceptible
‘ height above me. Not that I desire to
‘ follow you ; every thing may be carried
‘ too far. Do not imagine that I approve
‘ every sentiment I forbear contesting ; I
‘ shall let all you have said pass at present,
‘ and only ask you, why, as you confess
‘ the benevolent must feel a regard for the
‘ opinions of others, you will not at least
‘ acquaint the Blackburns with your in-
‘ tention, and receive the satisfaction of
‘ seeing them grateful and affectionate for
‘ the good you design them ?’

‘ Were I not perfectly satisfied,’ said
Mr. Ellison, ‘ with the pleasure I receive
‘ from a consciousness of acting rightly
‘ by them, I might perhaps endeavour to
‘ improve it by the means you mention ;
‘ but in all probability should find my aim
‘ unsuccessful. Much more generosity of
‘ mind is required to prevent our feeling
‘ great obligations burdensome, than is
‘ requisite to enable us to confer them on
‘ others. I do not think the Blackburns
‘ equal to this effort. Instead of loving
‘ me

‘ me as a benefactor, they might look on
‘ me as an oppressor, who loaded them
‘ with obligations they could not return.
‘ They now make themselves easy, by
‘ thinking I only do my duty towards
‘ them.’

‘ I should make them see it in another
‘ light,’ replied the Baronet : ‘ if I confer
‘ favours, I expect the receiver should feel
‘ himself obliged to me.’

‘ Why so ?’ said Mr. Ellifon, ‘ is not
‘ the pleasure of serving others sufficient
‘ of itself ? can it want any additions from
‘ their gratitude ? The mutual intercourse
‘ of civilities should be public, they har-
‘ monize the mind ; such debts we incur
‘ with pleasure, because we can easily re-
‘ pay them : as tokens of reciprocal re-
‘ gard, they cultivate friendship ; but we
‘ should receive much greater pleasure
‘ from conferring benefits, if we could do
‘ it secretly. The person obliged natu-
‘ rally feels a restraint ; he does not use
‘ the benefit with the same freedom, as if
‘ it

‘ it came to him by inheritance : if we
‘ are silent as to his actions, he fears we
‘ blame them ; if we advise, he thinks we
‘ dictate ; in proportion as we serve him,
‘ we in other respects abridge his liberty.
‘ This I confess arises from the want of
‘ generosity, too usual even in men who
‘ profusely confer obligations : they ex-
‘ pect a subserviency of mind in those they
‘ have obliged ; if in every point they do
‘ not exactly correspond with their wishes,
‘ they consider them as ungrateful ; and
‘ what would not be thought a fault in any
‘ other, is an offence in them. When
‘ this is so often seen, can we be surprized
‘ that people feel obligations burdensome ?
‘ for they fear this consequence, even
‘ where they would not find it ; and thus
‘ are under such restraint, as takes off all
‘ the pleasures of communication, and de-
‘ stroys the freedom of friendship, where
‘ we should imagine the affections of it
‘ would subsist in their fullest force.
‘ When, therefore, we can keep ourselves
‘ unknown in the benefits we confer, we
‘ enjoy the pleasure of seeing the persons
‘ relieved

‘ relieved from their uneasinesses, the secret satisfaction of knowing we have been the instruments of their happiness, and yet converse with them without constraint : they impart their designs without fearing our censure, ask our opinions with friendly freedom ; and we can give our advice without the danger of being thought to command, in presuming on the influence which we may think our generosity ought to give us over their determinations. Unfortunately this cannot always be done ; the hand that relieves must necessarily often appear ; but when we have the power of concealment, it would be blindness to our own happiness not to take advantage of it. But I have still another reason in this case ; I should fear lest by telling them I would receive no part of this great inheritance, they should imagine I secretly blamed my respectable friend for leaving it me, which would be a most unworthy return for his confidence and affection.’

‘ I see,’

‘ I see,’ said Sir William, ‘ with all
‘ your generosity, you have not enough
‘ to suffer me to think myself in
‘ the right in any opinion. You first
‘ puzzle, and then convince me ; the lat-
‘ ter part is yet to come : you have con-
‘ founded my ideas ; time and considera-
‘ tion must clear them. The majority of
‘ mankind is against you ; that is a plea
‘ in your favour : for you know I do
‘ not love to follow the prejudices of
‘ the multitude. I am called an odd fel-
‘ low, particular, and an humourist ; but
‘ I am sure I fall far short of you ; who
‘ have a head filled with such strange no-
‘ tions, as you will find few adopt ; some
‘ of them indeed I have agreed to, as
‘ much from a conviction that the multi-
‘ tude are always in the wrong, as from
‘ the force of your arguments ; but
‘ you must allow me to model them
‘ my own way, for I would not be a ser-
‘ vile copy of an angel : I shall not think
‘ myself any longer my own master, than
‘ while I preserve some originality in my
‘ character.’

C H A P. V.

THE time for the general election of representatives in parliament drawing near, the esteem wherein Mr. Ellison was held by all the gentlemen in the county, induced them to invite him to declare himself a candidate, with assurances of being elected by unanimous consent.

Mr. Ellison acknowledged himself much obliged to them for so distinguished a testimony of their good opinion, but declined accepting their offer in the genteelest manner he could. Little expecting this disappointment, they were both surprised and mortified; and some of them went so far as to tell him, that his declining so important and useful a trust did not well suit the benevolence and generosity of his temper, which should naturally lead him to embrace an opportunity of becoming one of the legislature, as he might in that capacity have a power of doing more extensive good than by any other means :

that of all men living he was perhaps best qualified to serve his country, as his excellent talents had been always turned towards benefiting mankind; for by making it his constant application he must better understand the means, and by his spirit and integrity could more effectually execute them.

Mr. Ellison replied, that they much over-rated his abilities, which were in no degree adequate to the business of legislature; in that situation, though integrity might prevent him from doing harm, yet too narrow a capacity would disable him from doing good. In his present sphere of life he hoped he might be useful to some, and therefore was unwilling to lose that power by aiming at greater. ‘Once
‘in a century perhaps,’ continued he, ‘a
‘man may arise whose single voice will
‘have more weight than that of hundreds,
‘who can convince the most obstinately
‘prejudiced, and warm the coldest heart to
‘virtue; but such an one is a prodigy;
‘nature is sparing of such productions: for
C 2 ‘in

“ in him the purest integrity, the firmest
“ resolution, and most extensive capacity
“ must unite. But what can a man of or-
“ dinary abilities perform in that situation ?
“ He cannot gain authority enough to
“ bring others over to his opinion, but
“ may vainly struggle through life without
“ obtaining one end he aimed at. Let
“ this man confine himself to a private sta-
“ tion, and inclination alone is a sufficient
“ qualification to enable him to do good ; but
“ from the desire of rising to a more con-
“ siderable sphere, we are apt to reject that
“ wherein we might laudably acquit our-
“ selves. That I see the extent of my powers
“ I consider as my greatest happiness, as I
“ am thereby admonished to continue in a
“ situation to which I am equal, and where-
“ in I find very full employment both for
“ my time and thoughts ; if many who
“ seek admission into the house of com-
“ mons, to the ruin of their fortunes and
“ happiness, would reconcile themselves
“ to the same humble lot, it would be far
“ better for the nation, as well as for them-
“ selves.”

“ However,

‘ However, I confess I have another
‘ reason for declining the honour you would
‘ confer. The manner in which it is of-
‘ fered would indeed save me from the
‘ necessity of absolute bribery, and so far
‘ I might avoid perjury and the conscio-
‘ ness of having broken a law of the greatest
‘ importance to the constitution, and vio-
‘ lated the legislative power in order to
‘ procure a share in the legislature; but
‘ still my constituents, who are obliged to
‘ swear they are uninfluenced by mercenary
‘ temptations in their choice of me, must
‘ many of them be perjured, since to their
‘ fear of disobliging their landlords I should
‘ owe the votes of the major part; and I
‘ cannot see the taking an immediate sum
‘ of money, and the continued possession of
‘ a farm on which their livelihood depends,
‘ in any very different light: in either
‘ case the influence is undue; they would
‘ not chuse me as the person most likely to
‘ serve their country, but as one by vot-
‘ ing for whom they should best promote
‘ their private interests. Neither would
‘ I act the usual part of candidates, and
‘ introduce such a course of drunkenness

‘ as is generally done to so pernicious a
‘ degree, that the people have scarcely
‘ time to be reformed before the next
‘ election renews the vice. How many
‘ persons who before were sober and in-
‘ dustrious are corrupted by those seasons
‘ of revelry and intoxication? I should
‘ feel myself answerable for all the evil that
‘ arose from my election; and as I have
‘ always beheld with horror the dreadful
‘ consequences attending what ought to be
‘ the great bulwark of our liberty, and best
‘ part of our constitution, I should be in-
‘ excusable if I were myself an aggressor,
‘ and took advantage of my friends doing
‘ for me what I would do for no one, as
‘ will appear; for the utmost use I shall
‘ make of my fortune at the ensuing elec-
‘ tion, is to tell my tenants and trades-
‘ people my opinion of the candidates, as
‘ many of them may not be able to form
‘ a judgment on their different merits, as-
‘ suring them at the same time, that they
‘ are perfectly at liberty to give their votes
‘ where they think they are best deserved,
‘ and have no resentment to fear from me
‘ though

‘ though they should reject him whom I
‘ prefer, except I find they are induced
‘ thereto by interested or vicious motives.’

Mr. Ellison’s way of thinking appeared very strange to the gentlemen whom he addressed, and they became better reconciled to his refusal when they perceived him, as they thought, so wrong-headed. They smiled at his scruples, and told him he was fit for Utopia ; but that as an Englishman he would find he must relax a little of the strictness of his principles. They, in their hearts, however, highly honoured him for the excess of his integrity ; and although they felt that his conduct was a tacit reproach to them, yet, so irresistably amiable is virtue, they esteemed him still more than ever, and wished the kingdom afforded a sufficient number of such men to effect a reformation, and conquer the universal corruption, which even those must censure who comply with it. There are few so depraved as to love dishonesty, though the consequences allure ;

were the same advantages to attend probity, it could not fail of being preferred: I say the same, for greater do attend it; but as they are not always so immediate nor so flattering to our passions, they are apt to have less influence.

Mr. Ellison acted conformably to his declaration. When the candidates were declared, he left his tenants and neighbours at liberty to vote according to their own opinions, exhorting them to consider it with the seriousness the importance of the affair deserved, and to make conscience their director, and likewise prevailed with them to forbear appearing at any of the drunken feasts on the occasion. This he did not scruple effecting by bribery, sending to each freeholder a larger quantity of provisions and liquor than he could have partaken of, in order to be socially shared in sobriety with his family and neighbours. By this means he preserved them from present debauchery, and all its train of pernicious consequences, and that with
fatis-

satisfaction to themselves. As his dependants dared not accept a bribe, the greatest part of them, ignorant of the different merits of the candidates, followed his judgment, and voted with him; but a few from prejudice in favour of the one, or some private pique to the other, gave their voices in opposition to his, and found the truth of the assurance he had given them; for he shewed not the least disapprobation of their conduct, but respected even their prejudices, sensible that error was consistent with honesty; and that the man who judged wrong, might yet mean right.

As the care he had taken to prevent the corruption of his tenants had not been followed by others, he saw but too much cause to have his opinion confirmed, as to the evils that arise from election-drunkenness; but was most touched with its ill effects on one of a rank superior to those he apprehended in most danger of being hurt by it. Dr. Tunstal, being violent in politics, had exerted himself much at the election, and during the contest ac-

quired such a habit of drinking, and entered into intimacies with so many people who made it their chief pleasure, that the love of it did not cease with the first inducement. The tender regard Mr. Ellison retained for Mrs. Tunstal, made him sensibly afflicted with this misfortune; and she scarcely suffered more at seeing her husband neglect his business, and spend all his time in hunting, or at the table, from which he never rose sober, than Mr. Ellison did at hearing this was his practice. While he thought her happy, he patiently acquiesced in his disappointment; but he could ill bear the doctor should so little regard and render wretched a woman whom he adored, and whose felicity would have been his most pleasing study. He was sensible that distress of circumstances must encrease her mortification, at finding to how unworthy an object she had sacrificed all that fortune and the most generous and ardent love could bestow; and as an additional grief, her children must share in her ruin. Though compassion
awakened

awakened all his tenderness, yet he was but more confirmed in his resolution of avoiding her; the more lively his affection, the more dangerous would the sight of her become to his peace; and he likewise feared that it would be difficult so to regulate his behaviour as to avoid giving her offence. Any appearance of compassion might be looked on as an insult, a gayer manner might wear the air of exultation, and he would have been sensibly mortified if she had unjustly suspected him of the extreme meanness of being glad that she had cause to repent the preference she had given to another.

So far was he from any such sensations, that had it been in his power to regulate her husband's conduct, her happiness would never have received the least interruption; and he endeavoured to remedy all the evils which could be redressed. He represented to the doctor in the most friendly manner the distress which must fall on himself and family if he continued a vice so brutal and odious, and to him particularly

larly pernicious, as it must be attended with the entire loss of his business. He tried every means of touching him, applied to his conscience, his pride, paternal tenderness, his affection for his wife, his own ease; but all he could urge had no effect beyond the present hour. The Doctor felt the force of Mr. Ellison's arguments, and at the time purposed to leave off so destructive a practice; but as soon as his noisy companions appeared, his resolution vanished, and every rational intention was drowned in wine.

Mrs. Tunstall's situation was very melancholy. She daily beheld the man she loved in the most disgusting condition; and, when not absolutely intoxicated, the effects of the former night's debauch so stupified and disordered him, that he was not capable of conversation, nor susceptible of affection. During the season for country sports she saw little of him. He went out by break of day; if he dined at home, he was surrounded by companions very unfit for her society, who remained
with

with him till he was in a condition to be carried to bed ; if he dined abroad, as was usually the case after a melancholy day, she had the grief to see him brought home at night in the highest degree of intoxication. She bore this change with patience, and though overwhelmed with silent grief, behaved with such constant good humour to him, as must have touched a generous mind, but had no effect on his. He was naturally good-natured, and therefore treated her with civility and some affection ; but if she attempted to hint at the decline of their circumstances, and the consequences that must attend it, she found it gave offence, and feared, as his reason was seldom clear, she might by urging what was disagreeable, bring on the only addition that could be made to her distress, a brutality of behaviour. She therefore confined as much as possible within her own breast the poverty she began to feel, and knew must increase ; for she had no hope of relief from her father, who she feared would, on any application she could make of that kind, only reproach her

her with her injudicious choice, and tell her she deserved the consequences of so ill-judged a preference. Her children, from being the joy of her heart, became additional afflictions, as they must partake of all the difficulties which threatened her; and any distress that could fall upon them was sure to wound her in the tenderest part.

Mr. Ellifon's humanity was of so quick and lively a kind, that it did not wait to be informed of a person's particular sufferings; from comparing their income with their necessary expences, he knew when they were under any difficulties in point of circumstances. He did not delay therefore till report told him the poverty of the Tunstalls, but from what his own heart represented their situation must be, determined to alleviate in the best manner he could the distresses of the woman whose uneasinesses were his greatest afflictions. To effect it was attended with some difficulty. In any case, delicacy would have deterred him from appearing in it, but in
this

this he thought it particularly necessary to conceal the hand from whence the relief came; especially as he wished to convey it to Mrs. Tunstall, sensible that what fell into her husband's possession would be spent in the indulgence of his favourite vice.

In this dilemma he applied to her father, and intreated permission to convey money to her through his hands, observing that he might insist on her expending it in domestic necessities, and keeping it secret from her husband, who thought too little on the subject to discover that some foreign aid must enable them to subsist. With no small difficulty he prevailed on the old gentleman to pretend this was his own gift; it contradicted all his former behaviour, and he was unwilling she should believe him so well reconciled to her choice as to endeavour to remedy the ill consequences that had followed it. But Mr. Ellison urged it with an ardor that was irresistible, and obtained a promise of absolute secrecy. Yet this method did not
entirely

entirely answer Mr. Ellison's wishes. Mr. Allin would not suffer him to indulge his generosity to the utmost, prudently representing that Mrs. Tunstall knew his circumstances too well to believe he could spare her so large an annual supply as Mr. Ellison proposed; and therefore by too lavish a bounty he would frustrate his design, as it must give room for suspicion, and she would certainly refuse being supported at his expence. An hundred a year he would undertake to remit to her, but no more; this he observed would keep her above necessity, without being taken notice of by her husband.

Reason required Mr. Ellison's acquiescence, but as he thought the sum insufficient, he endeavoured to add to it by other means. As his house-keeper had kept up an acquaintance with Mrs. Tunstall, he made her observe what cloaths or linen appeared necessary in the family, or any other deficiency of conveniencies; and would order an ample supply to be sent them from London, without any notification

tion of the giver. They sometimes suspected the hand from whence these presents came, but uncertain of the truth, and not knowing how to return them, they were under the convenient necessity of accepting what they would have been sorry to refuse.

Thus Mr. Ellison saved Mrs. Tunstall from uneasiness as far as his power extended, her fears of extreme poverty were banished, and she felt great satisfaction at the proofs she so unexpectedly received of her father's affection; they were indeed accompanied with reproaches and very bitter reflections on the man who with grief she heard blamed, but this she considered as the failing of her father's temper, and would have thought herself ungrateful had she resented what he said, when his actions made her so kind and generous an amends. The Doctor found himself free from duns, and therefore more at his ease, but attributed it to his wife's oeconomy; and was thereby confirmed in an opinion he had (with many other of his sex)

sex) always entertained, that a family might be kept at a very trifling expence if a woman was a good manager, which he supposed necessity had taught his wife to become. And he would frequently wonder how some of his neighbours could squander away so much money in their family-expences, which with a little care might be brought within so narrow a compass: on these occasions he would pay some compliments to his wife, observing that women could make money go a great way if they pleased; which carried in it a hint of a former failure, in the article that then made the subject of his praise.

C H A P. VI.

AS business had for some years defended Mr. Ellison's heart from any tender impression, so now it served to lessen the uneasiness he would otherwise have received from it, by forcing his thoughts frequently into another train; being engaged so warmly in benevolent pursuits, that he had not often leisure to give way
to

to melancholy ideas. Thus his beneficence received a double reward: beside the satisfactions arising from reflection, the sense of his private griefs were suspended by his ardor to do good; and while he assiduously endeavoured to render others happy, he enjoyed intervals of peace in his own breast; and Mrs. Tunstall's unfortunate situation would frequently be banished from his mind, by the joy of those he served.

His charitable cares were not confined within this kingdom; his dependants in Jamaica were frequently in his thoughts. He could not bear to think that the term of their happiness should be as uncertain as that of his or Mr. Hammond's life. Though his son had good qualities, and was such as a father might behold with delight, yet he could plainly perceive that the natural violence and imperiousness of his temper was rather restrained than conquered, which made him think with concern of his succeeding to his plantation in Jamaica, though every means was taken
to

to inspire him with a proper sense of his duty to his dependents. Mr. Ellison therefore appointed by will a continuance of the same steward during his life; and secured to him such privileges, that it would not be in the power of his young master to render him uneasy in his office. He also settled such annuities on the slaves then employed on his estate, as would render them in some degree independent, but yet insufficient to enable them to live comfortably without some labour, designing by this moderate provision to leave a spur to their industry, and yet to give them the power (as he enfranchised them) of chusing their own master, as they would not by immediate necessity be obliged to stay with one that should treat them ill. He was sensible that slaves must be had to cultivate the plantation, and consequently there would always be people there subject to bad treatment if the owner was deficient in humanity; but he justly considered that it would not be so severely felt by those accustomed to it, as by such as had been till then used with gentle-

gentleness and lenity ; and by leaving his son a proper sum of ready money to purchase new slaves, he thought he should compensate sufficiently for any diminution he might make in the number of those who he considered as his own private property, persons for whose happiness he was obliged in duty to provide, because it was in his power to do it.

At some parts of the year his house bore a good deal the appearance of a school, for the young Blackburns usually spent great part of their breaking up with him ; Miss Granthams did the same, which, added to their brothers and Master Ellison, made a large number, but to him not troublesome company as he was very fond of them, and beside thought his house a properer place for them than their father's, both as his son's tutor took care that they rather gained than lost knowledge by those recesses, and as the Blackburns could learn nothing but vice, and the Granthams, though their parents were
honest,

honest, sober people, could acquire only pride and vulgarity at home. He loved these children so much, that he received more pleasure from their holidays than they could do. Their undissembled fondness for him, the good dispositions he observed in them, their innocent vivacity and harmless sports, yielded him great satisfaction; and though he gave them all proper indulgence, he kept a strict watch over their behaviour and tempers, and carefully endeavoured to rectify every thing that was amiss. He likewise assigned them a reasonable portion of employment, that they might not think idleness a pleasure by being allowed it in holidays, nor by a long intermission of application be made to feel it more grievous at their return to school: a practice too common, whereby parents frustrate much of the benefit their children might acquire at those seminaries, and render school very disagreeable to them. The only use he saw in holidays was the opportunity they gave the children's friends of watching the progress of their

their improvement, encouraging it in the best manner they were able, and rectifying the errors they might have acquired, by the company of so many of their own age. The improvement he observed in the young ladies under his care gave him particular pleasure, being far beyond his expectation; for those who have not made children their peculiar study, do not easily imagine how fast they may improve, when under judicious and assiduous instructors. In the delicacy and nobleness of the principles they had acquired, he saw many traces of his amiable friends; and from the knowledge they had gained, he perceived how well their school-mistresses were qualified for their undertaking; and did not doubt, as the young ladies had good natural talents, but in a few years they would be the most accomplished women in the kingdom, without a mixture of the follies too often learnt in childhood, as he found that the first care of their governesses was to eradicate vanity, self-conceit and pride, and that their virtues were
still

still more diligently cultivated than their understandings. Such was the foundation of Mr. Ellifon's satisfaction; what the young people's parents received was of a less rational kind. Mrs. Grantham was rejoiced to see her daughters so genteel, and observed that they looked as if their father were now a duke; she could scarcely forbear already styling them lady Betty, lady Fanny, &c. and brought every deformed or awkward woman of quality into comparison with them, to shew their superior excellence.

Mr. Ellifon's house contained also many children of inferior rank; his servants had intermarried, the blacks with blacks, the white servants with those of their own colour: for though he promoted their marrying, he did not wish an union between those of different complexions, the connection appearing indelicate and almost unnatural. On marriage a small apartment was assigned to each couple; they were continued in their places; but if the
wives

wives proved with child, their work was lightened by assistance from the time they grew unfit to perform it: they were suffered to lye-in in the house, and proper attendants were provided; but they were obliged to put the children out to nurse till they began to walk alone; though he thought it so much a mother's duty to suckle her child, and so beneficial to the health of both, that he suffered the children to lie with their mothers, and to be brought to them two or three times in a day to receive their food. When they could walk they were taken into the house, but on proviso that their parents kept them in good order and quiet, that they might not prove a disturbance. He thought that by promoting marriage amongst his servants he kept them sober, and felt great satisfaction from the several little families thus growing up under his protection; but he carefully avoided shewing particular fondness to any one child, however engaging, lest the infant should be hurt by the notion of being a favourite, and ill-will arise

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among

among the parents from the jealousy excited by his partiality. As soon as they came to a proper age, his intention was to remove them to the schools he had established for education. By this indulgence to his domestics his house gave one some idea of those of the ancient patriarchs: he seemed as much the father as the master of his family, and received some reward for his humanity in the assiduity and tender attachment of his servants, who were induced both by interest and affection to serve him well; and performed their duty with double satisfaction, as he received their services with expressions of approbation or benignant smiles, not with the sullen silence and supercilious air of those who think the utmost a servant can do is but just his duty, and therefore only sufficient to preserve them from blame. He was sensible, indeed, that what they did was their duty, but when he considered how difficult it is to perform our duties well, how deficient we are in those we ought to pay to our maker, he saw great merit

merit in such as acquitted themselves of their duty to him; and would have thought himself wanting in a due return, if he had not shewn that he accepted their services with something more than content.

A man who, like Mr. Ellison, can draw so many pleasures from the inexhaustible source of benevolence in his own heart, can never be unhappy whatever misfortunes may befall him; for a season he may feel the oppressions of melancholy, but the joy that arises from doing good will frequently dispel the gloom, and such rays of sober, heart-felt satisfaction break in upon his mind, as will put all sadness to flight. Hitherto Mr. Ellison had felt no grief but what arose from the disappointment of his wishes to obtain Mrs. Tunstall, and the concern for her melancholy situation, which he could alleviate but not remove. He had found means to prevent her being distressed in circumstances, but the pain she must suffer from the odious change in the man who she so

tenderly loved and esteemed so highly, was not capable of alleviation. But now a new affliction befel him; Sir William Ellifon, for whom he had a real regard, was taken ill of a fever. The distemper at first threatened to prove fatal, but unfortunately nature withstood the danger, and the fever seized his brain, from whence no art could remove it; for Mr. Ellifon applied to all of the faculty, particularly famous for their skill in that most calamitous distemper, but it baffled their endeavours, and they declared it their opinion that he was incurably lunatic.

Sir William's death would have given a far less shock to Mr. Ellifon; he had borne severer trials with resignation, and would have known how to submit to this, but a human creature deprived of reason is certainly the most melancholy of all objects. He could not behold his friend without the greatest anguish of mind, and yet thought it so much his duty to see him frequently, that no pain that arose from

from it could make him forbear fulfilling so indispensable an obligation.

As heir at law, the care of Sir William fell to Mr. Ellison, who determined to acquit himself in a manner that should as much as possible alleviate the misfortune to the unhappy sufferer. Several of his friends pressed him to take out a statute of lunacy, which in case Sir William recovered would secure him from all disputes or vexatious scrutiny; exhorting him to consider, that people once afflicted with that distemper seldom regain so perfect a state of mind as not to be liable to prejudices and passions, which render them unfit for the transaction of business, and therefore dangerous to be involved with in any intricate affair.

Mr. Ellison allowed the justness of what they urged, but would not agree to the consequence; saying, 'he had rather subject himself to any inconveniencies, than that his cousin, if he was so fortunate as

‘to recover his senses, should have the
‘mortification of thinking the loss of them
‘had been made public. He did not pre-
‘tend to keep his condition a secret,
‘which was utterly impossible, but while
‘any eclat had been avoided, the poor
‘man might flatter himself his calamity
‘had not been generally known; a thing
‘much to be wished, as nothing makes a
‘stronger impression on persons recovered
‘from lunacy, than the notion of the
‘world’s being informed of their distem-
‘per, from whence they feel a sort of
‘shame and reserve that prevents their
‘full enjoyment of their return to reason.’

C H A P. VII.

MR. Ellison had an additional motive for declining to take out a statute of lunacy against Sir William. He had no doubt but his friend’s inclination had concurred with the law in making him his heir; he had frequently expressed himself to that effect, and both his honour
and

and affection had put it out of dispute. Mr. Ellison was in no danger therefore of being made to account for the revenue of Sir William's estate, which he was determined to spend in every way wherein he found it possible to make it contribute to the unhappy man's amusement, whereas, had the law been to dispose of it, only a moderate sum would have been allowed for the maintenance of the owner, and the rest have been laid up for his heir; and though Mr. Ellison was that person, and would in time have received the benefit of that accumulation, yet was he wholly averse to it, asserting 'that no one
' had a right to a man's fortune but him-
' self; that it ought to be applied towards
' contributing to his happiness; and that
' it would be more just to deprive a
' vicious or a vain man of part of his pos-
' sessions, than to deny the whole to the
' uses of a lunatic, if he was capable of re-
' ceiving the least share of entertainment
' from it: his state required every allevi-
' ation; a man of sense could be happy
' with a little, but one deprived of reason

‘ must receive his pleasures from exter-
‘ nals; and however puerile his amuse-
‘ ments might be, he ought to be indulg-
‘ ed in them as far as his income extend-
‘ ed, while they did not hurt others; that
‘ limitation giving him a better right to
‘ his puerilities, than the vicious or vain
‘ man could plead to a fortune spent in
‘ corrupting mankind.

Mr. Ellifon considered his trust in regard to Sir William in so serious a light, that he paid attention to his favourite opinions during his days of reason; and in compliance with what he knew he would have chosen, determined to maintain him in a degree of figure that Mr. Ellifon would not have allowed himself. With great care he established him a household. The minister of a neighbouring parish had been seized some time before with the palsy, which had deprived him of the use of his limbs, and greatly impaired his speech. His wife was a very worthy and sensible woman, of great resolution and spirit, tempered with much sweetness of dispo-

disposition, humanity, and gentleness of manner. She had supported with great fortitude the misfortune that had befallen them, had carefully endeavoured to keep up her husband's spirits, and concealed all she felt on his account and his children's. Though by birth a gentlewoman, and bred up in all the delicacy usual to persons of that rank, she no longer thought of any thing but conforming to their circumstances, and preventing her husband from feeling any inconveniences from the great change his illness had made in them. The living brought them in but fourscore pounds a year; but this income he had much increased by a school, which his ill-health now obliged him to decline, and divide the profits of his living with a curate. Thus reduced to a very small pittance, with a very amiable, but very sickly daughter, of about fifteen years of age, and a son ten years old, this worthy woman parted with her only female domestic, and became at once the nurse and servant of the family. But as her husband was entirely helpless, and too heavy for

her and her children to lift, she continued a man-servant, whose business was to wait on her husband, to wheel him about in a chair for exercise and convenience, and to cultivate their garden. With all her œconomy it would have been impossible for her to have defrayed the expences of sickness, had not Mr. Ellison's bounty reached her, as well as all other persons whose distress was known to him; and he was much pleased with seeing that the first use she made of the money he sent her was to purchase the chair I have mentioned for her husband; an action that gave offence to many, and was termed by them extravagance: 'for such indulgences,' they said, 'were only fit for the rich; surely he might very well have sat always in 'one place.' Had the indulgence been for herself, Mr. Ellison might have thought it as well omitted, but he was charmed with the tenderness which induced her to provide for her husband's comfort before her own convenience, and considered it as an action (though of a trifling nature) yet

yet of generous delicacy, rather than extravagance.

This was the person Mr. Ellison judged most proper to take care of Sir William and his family; and with pleasure thought he should at the same time rescue her from her troubles. The nobleness of her mind, which appeared in her endeavours to live within her small income, though she had little reason to doubt but Mr. Ellison's customary generosity would enable her to render that task less laborious, was a security against her frustrating any of his intentions, from mercenary views of her own; and her humanity would make her careful to defend Sir William from any harsh treatment. Every virtue for which she was distinguished seemed particularly adapted to the trust he reposed in her; and he esteemed himself peculiarly fortunate in finding one so admirably qualified for the office, who likewise would be greatly benefited by it. As many painful circumstances, however, attended it, he thought it proper she should be well re-

warded; for he always proportioned his salaries, not according to the price at which services might be purchased, but at what they deserved. He therefore proposed to her and her husband to relinquish the whole income of his living to the curate, a man of great merit, and newly married to a woman worthy of him, offering to give them an hundred and fifty pounds per annum if they would remove to Sir William's house, where the best apartment should be assigned them, with every convenience for themselves and children, and where they would be at no expence but for their cloaths, provided they would undertake the care and government of the family, (of which she should be sole mistress) and study every means of amusing Sir William, and seeing him made as happy as his unfortunate condition would permit. He told them, that as Sir William had always kept a chariot and six, and would have thought he appeared meanly had his equipage been less genteel, he should continue the same, only changing the chariot into a coach,

as

as it might be adviseable to have him attended by more than one companion. Of this he observed Mr. Lyne (that was the name of the clergyman) might take advantage to procure to himself both exercise and amusement.

These good people were much delighted with the offer, which not only afforded them plenty and convenience, but gave them the means of saving a provision for their children; for Mrs. Lyne did not doubt laying by at least two thirds of her salary; and they with pleasure consented to relinquish the whole income of their living, for which they were to be made such ample amends. Small preparation was necessary to their removal; and Mr. Ellison had soon the pleasure of receiving their assistance towards the execution of his plan. Till they came he seldom was absent from Sir William, trying every means of amusing him. His endeavours often failed; but at length he found out so many ways of giving him pleasure, as constituted a good deal of variety, and pretty

pretty well filled up his time. He perceived that the poor man grew fond of poultry and other creatures, which in some degree had always been his taste; Mr. Ellison therefore collected a great number both of English and foreign poultry, rabbits, Guiney-pigs, birds and squirrels, appointing an old woman whose sole business it should be to take care of them. He indulged Sir William in the ordering of every thing his fancy suggested as conducive to their convenience, and likewise in making alterations in his garden; only when his conceits were very absurd, and such as might create laughter, he contrived to delay the execution, and then easily found means to turn off his thoughts. He was well pleased that Sir William took delight in these alterations; for though he did not improve the beauty of his gardens, yet he provided work for three or four labourers, who constantly attended his orders.

Sir William had been a lover of music; he tried him therefore in that particular, and

and found, though his judgment was decayed, the taste continued. To gratify it, as he kept him two men servants, he took care to get one who could play well on the French-horn, the other tolerably on that instrument, but excelled on the German-flute, and engaged the organist of the adjacent city, with two musicians who played well on the violin, to come over once or twice in a week, as should prove most agreeable to Sir William. Miss Lyne had a very fine voice, though entirely untaught; as it gave pleasure to Sir William, her mother thought it proper to have her cultivate her genius for music, though it would probably prove very useless in any situation wherein she could expect to be placed: the organist's frequent attendance on Sir William, gave her great opportunity of learning on the harpsichord, and when he was not there, the Baronet was very fond of hearing her sing, accompanied by the German-flute.

As Mr. Ellison wished to vary Sir William's amusements as much as possible, in
order

order to keep up his inclination for them all, he desired Mrs. Lyne to indulge him with playing at cards, to which he shewed an inclination, though before his misfortune he was by no means fond of them, and he contrived by presents to make it agreeable to four or five persons in the neighbourhood to be of his party, which secured a set at a very short notice whenever he chose it. These amusements, joined with airing, kept him constantly diverted; and whoever observed him, would have been apt to think reason of less consequence to our happiness than we generally imagine. Mr. Ellison was ridiculed by many for spending so much money in gratifying the whims of a madman, who, it was urged, had no longer any right to his own fortune, being deprived of the understanding which should direct him in the disposal of it; and was thought to defend himself but ill when he replied, that ‘ he knew no such necessary connection between sense and money, that should make a failure in the first deprive a man of his property; were any such allowed, ‘ he

‘ he imagined the right of possession would
‘ be more difficult to ascertain than at
‘ present. He acknowledged that insani-
‘ ty of mind was a sufficient reason to take
‘ from a man the power of expending his
‘ money, because it might render him inca-
‘ pable of laying it out to his own comfort
‘ and convenience, but nothing could de-
‘ prive him of the right of enjoyment ; it
‘ must always be his, while he had a capa-
‘ city of receiving either convenience or
‘ pleasure from it ; nor was it at all to the
‘ purpose whether he was amused with
‘ Guiney-pigs and rabbits, or hounds and
‘ race-horses : if one was more trifling
‘ than the other, the consequences prov-
‘ ed, at least, that it was not less rational.
‘ Sir William’s pleasures were perfectly
‘ innocent ; they not only made some of
‘ the inferior parts of the creation happy,
‘ but were beneficial to some human be-
‘ ings, and did not give rise to a single
‘ evil, nor cause a moment’s pain of heart
‘ to any one : he should think that man
‘ happy who could say as much in defence
‘ of the pleasures which he and his friends
‘ most

‘ most eagerly pursued.’ If they disapproved Sir William’s alterations in his garden, he would leave his defence in that particular ‘ to the rich citizen, ‘ who, in search of retirement, amuses his ‘ leisure hours in building a country house ‘ in a high road, and admires the air which ‘ comes to him loaded with clouds of dust; ‘ who places the figure of stern Neptune ‘ in a grove of firs, makes Minerva rise ‘ with dignity in the midst of his fish- ‘ pond, and hides the door of his hogstye ‘ with the statue of a Venus. He did not ‘ doubt but such a person would shew, by ‘ the most convincing arguments, that e- ‘ very man had a right to indulge his own ‘ taste, which Sir William had not done ‘ in so extraordinary a manner as several ‘ worthy gentlemen in the environs of ‘ London; with this difference, that the ‘ Baronet aimed only at his own amuse- ‘ ment, and his works could be seen by ‘ few; whereas the desire of exciting ad- ‘ miration seemed to be the principal view ‘ of the gentlemen hinted at, by their ‘ placing their marvellous structures in the
‘ most

‘most conspicuous places.’ He concluded with observing, ‘that though society had a right to require every man to be innoxious, it had not the least title to require any man to be wise.’

Some of Mr. Ellison’s acquaintance objected to his conduct on motives they thought more prevalent with him; and expressed their surprize, that a man who was so distinguished for charity and generosity should suffer a fortune to be so trifled away, which if dispensed with the same bounty as he did his own, might relieve great numbers of distressed people. Mr. Ellison, to these charitable-minded gentlemen, replied, that ‘he had no right to give away another man’s money; the same sum as Sir William had for the last year or two of his life set aside for charitable purposes, he still applied to that end, looking upon it as his real and rational choice that it should be so; and he thought it his duty, as far as possible, to make the expences of Sir William’s family

‘ family administer relief where it was
‘ most wanted; were he to do more he
‘ should not think himself just, and that
‘ can be no virtue which has not justice
‘ for its foundation. He considered Sir
‘ William as possessed of a double right
‘ to the enjoyment of his own fortune,
‘ first as it solely belonged to him, a legal
‘ and natural right; for if it was not his, it
‘ was no body’s, no other person could
‘ justly lay claim to it: his other title was
‘ founded in humanity, no one being so
‘ true an object of compassion; for, in
‘ his opinion, no poverty was so much to
‘ be pitied as the poverty of the under-
‘ standing; a man who falls from the top
‘ of fortune’s wheel into the lowest indi-
‘ gence, is less wretched than he who by
‘ a total deprivation of his senses, is left
‘ at the mercy of his own tormenting pas-
‘ sions and caprices, and too often subjec-
‘ ted to the cruelty of those who, void
‘ of humanity, seem to triumph in an un-
‘ derstanding which is our greatest shame
‘ if ill applied. A poor man may gene-
rally

‘ rally by industry or ingenuity relieve his
‘ wants, but the miseries of the lunatic
‘ are beyond his own power to redress;
‘ and custom has made it usual for no one
‘ to attempt to alleviate his sufferings.
‘ For his own part, therefore, he thought
‘ Sir William’s fortune was spent in the
‘ most charitable manner possible; and
‘ humanity served only to confirm him in
‘ the destination of it.’

These censures gave no uneasiness to Mr. Ellison, nor in the least abated the satisfaction he felt in seeing Sir William really happy. Sir William was not passionate by nature, and though from the time he lost his reason his disposition became warmer than was natural to it, yet it was no difficult matter to keep him from any of the violent flights which must make the most painful part of lunacy. By a succession of such amusements as he best liked, he was not only put in good humour, but preserved from dejection and weariness; and Mrs. Lyne accommodated

dated herself so well to the turn of his mind, that he found great pleasure in her company, though he frequently relinquished her conversation to listen to her daughter's singing, which would have been almost his constant employ, had they not been obliged to draw his attention off to other things on account of her health, which was too delicate to admit of such continual exertion of lungs as would have suited his inclination.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyne thought themselves well rewarded for the attention they paid Sir William, by the enjoyment of affluence, and every convenience of life, and the power of providing for their children; Mr. Lyne found his health improve by the exercise which Sir William's equipage enabled him to take, and Mr. Ellison gave them the liberty of sending it for any of their friends when it was not wanted, on condition that they did not suffer company to interfere with their attendance on Sir William, which could not be done without Mr. Ellison's knowledge, as no
confi-

confidence in them could make him neglect keeping a constant watch over their behaviour in that point, and in his absence his house-keeper and Mr. Green were equally observing. But the share music, the garden, and his creatures took of Sir William's time, left them sufficient leisure to enjoy their friends, who they might entertain as long in the house as they pleased, the entire command of it being allowed them. Mr. Ellison kept beside a very sober young man, who after having received a gentleman's education, was by his father's extravagance in elections reduced at his death to seek his bread, and not having been brought up either to business or profession, nor inheriting enough to set him out in any way of life, had no means left him but entering into service as some gentleman's valet de chambre. Distress soon becomes known to those who are ever ready to relieve it, and Mr. Ellison was very opportunely informed of this young man's situation, just before the beginning of Sir William's illness,

ness, the melancholy conclusion of which afforded him the means of providing well for him, and at the same time attaching to Sir William one in whose care he could confide. He allowed him a very handsome salary, treated him, as his birth deserved, like a gentleman, and required nothing from him but to lie in Sir William's chamber, and accompany him whenever he was out of the house, which Mrs. Lyne could not well do, the fatigue being too great for one of her sex. Thus these good people, by relieving each other, made the labour moderate to all; and if they were sometimes weary of their office, their hours of leisure well rewarded them.

C H A P. VIII.

HAD not Sir William's family been settled so much to Mr. Ellifon's satisfaction, he would have found his yearly tour for the release of debtors attended with much disquietude; and more especially

cially, as this year it was prolonged beyond the usual time allotted for it, as well as much increased in expence.

After having performed his wonted visitation, he found two hundred pounds of the sum appropriated to that purpose remained in his purse; and unwilling to leave it unemployed, he determined to extend his circle of benevolence by taking in the chief town of the county next to that which generally had been the boundary of his circuit. According to this usual method he got letters of introduction to some of the principal inhabitants, as one travelling through curiosity, and was recommended to a creditable family where he might have a private lodging, the noise of an inn being disagreeable to him. After having been shewn the cathedral, and whatever else was thought worthy of observation in the town, he expressed a desire to see the prison. His taste was thought rather odd, but was readily complied with. He talked with

all the prisoners, enquiring into the causes of their confinement, which all were very ready to communicate, except one young man, who answered him with gentleness, and even politeness, but in few words, saying, 'that he suffered contentedly the punishment for debt, as his conscience was free from all reproach of extravagance.' Mr. Ellison would not distress him with any farther questions, but his air of dejection, and something peculiarly amiable in his countenance, touched him extremely; and when he had got out of the prison his first enquiry was concerning him. His conductor replied, that 'the prisoner had great reason to say his conscience did not reproach him with the cause of his being there, since filial piety was the real occasion of it.' Finding Mr. Ellison was curious to know the particulars, he thus proceeded:

'Mr. Maningham, father to this young man, was heir to a very good estate, and married a young lady with an ample fortune; but through extravagance had spent, before his son was of age, all that
' was

‘ was not settled on his wife and son, and
‘ was beside overwhelmed with debts.
‘ Not contented with having ruined him-
‘ self, he was desirous of bringing his son
‘ into the same state, by getting him to
‘ resign the settlement on himself; having
‘ so far prevailed with Mrs. Maningham,
‘ that she had agreed to relinquish her
‘ jointure, if her son would make over his
‘ title to the estate on which it was charg-
‘ ed. She was sensible of the imprudence
‘ of this step; but grieved to the heart
‘ to see her husband a prisoner in his own
‘ house, and not able to purchase the ne-
‘ cessaries of life, and moved by his assu-
‘ rances of a more prudent conduct for the
‘ future, if once extricated out of the dif-
‘ ficulties that then oppressed him, she
‘ not only consented to reduce herself to
‘ beggary, but joined her endeavours with
‘ her husband’s, in order to involve their
‘ only son in the same distress. The young
‘ man, not able to resist their united in-
‘ treaties, told them, that when those who
‘ gave him being desired to make him a
‘ beggar,

‘ beggar, he could not refuse consenting
‘ to his own ruin. With youth and health
‘ on his side he did not doubt being able
‘ to gain a maintenance, and therefore
‘ would willingly relinquish his whole in-
‘ heritance, did the action affect no one but
‘ himself; but when he considered his
‘ mother must, by his cancelling the set-
‘ tlement, be left totally destitute of sup-
‘ port, if she out-lived her husband, he
‘ could not think of so unlimited a com-
‘ pliance, though she herself desired it;
‘ therefore the most he could do was to
‘ give up all except fifty pounds a year,
‘ which in case she was the survivor would
‘ just afford her bread, though it could not
‘ be deemed placing above want one who
‘ was born, and had always lived as she
‘ had done.

‘ Young Maningham’s consent, with
‘ this small reservation, was readily ac-
‘ cepted; the settlements were cancelled,
‘ the estate sold, and his father’s debts
‘ paid: but the relief was short, the small
‘ remainder

remainder was soon spent, and in little more than a year Mr. Maningham was again distressed. Extravagance, however paradoxical it may at first sound, arises from selfishness. The extravagant, for the gratification of their own private inclinations, injure those who should be the most dear to them, are unjust to the traders with whom they deal; and though they most hurt themselves, yet their views are entirely selfish; voluptuousness, vanity, or some favourite vice, makes them blind to their true interest; if they had any feeling for the good of others they would be less prodigal. As this is in fact the case, you cannot wonder that Mr. Maningham, as if he wanted to make the ruin of his son complete, now pressed him to join in a bond for a thousand pounds, in order to supply the present exigence. The young man resisted till a writ for part of that sum was taken out against his father, and then the fear of seeing him confined in a prison conquered his resolution, and he again complied.

‘ Mr. Maningham did not out-live this
‘ fatal transaction above half a year, and
‘ by his death his son became solely re-
‘ sponsible for the bond; the money was
‘ demanded, but nothing was left to pay;
‘ on the contrary, other debts were con-
‘ tracted, but those could not be charged
‘ to young Maningham’s account; how-
‘ ever, the bond creditor was implacable,
‘ and two years ago threw him into prison.
‘ His mother, miserable at the misfortunes
‘ she in part brought upon him, (for though
‘ she had no share in her husband’s extrava-
‘ gance, yet, as I have mentioned, she
‘ strongly joined in persuading her son to
‘ give up his patrimony) has endeavour-
‘ ed to prevail with him to sell the little
‘ remaining estate, very desirous of relin-
‘ quishing the present possession, but she
‘ cannot persuade him to reduce her to
‘ beggary; he says, she has suffered too
‘ much by his father already, nothing shall
‘ tempt him to compleat her distress; he
‘ can bear his imprisonment with patience
‘ while he knows she has some support,
‘ and

‘ and liberty could have no charms for
‘ him if purchased with her indigence.
‘ He has offered to make over the rever-
‘ sion, but his creditor, flattering himself
‘ that filial piety must at length give way,
‘ will accept of nothing but present pay-
‘ ment. Were not the debt so great, the
‘ esteem all who know this excellent young
‘ man have for him, would procure his
‘ enlargement, as none would refuse to
‘ contribute what is in their power; but
‘ the sum puts it past hope, and he is pro-
‘ bably doomed to spend in this loathsome
‘ prison a life which his virtues, his abi-
‘ lities, and education might render
‘ useful to the public. All his friends
‘ can do for him is by small presents, and
‘ lending him books, to make time hang
‘ less heavy on his hands.’

This account touched Mr. Ellison deeply.
The debt was great; he could not think of
anticipating the fund of the ensuing year,
and disappointing the hope of some poor
wretch, whose sole consolation might at
that time be the expectation of his goal-

delivery; and yet he could less bear to leave this worthy man in his melancholy situation, which seemed already to have impaired both his health and spirits, and in a little time more might affect them irrecoverably. His strong sensations of compassion had obliged him to bind himself down to a rule of never (if possible) exceeding his income, as he must thereby lessen his future power of doing good; but he did not think it right to keep to this too strictly: he had sometimes before exceeded as far as a few hundreds, believing that if by such means he lessened his capital one or two thousand pounds during his life, his son would have no reason to complain, as so large a part of his fortune was gained by his industry; but the greatness of Mr. Maningham's debt gave him some thought, which however determined on the side of benevolence; and finding the excellent character he at first received of him confirmed by numbers, though not without the imputation of folly for having suffered his father to involve him so deeply,

deeply, he determined to release him; for in his estimation wisdom was but a secondary merit.

Mr. Ellison had no sooner taken his resolution than he returned to the prison, and enquiring for Mr. Maningham, was conducted to him, where he found his mother weeping over him, and again pressing for his consent to give up the estate to his creditor; which he, with the firmest resolution, though expressed in the tenderest manner, was again refusing.

Mr. Ellison appeared so much moved with this scene, that Mrs. Maningham begged him to join his advice to her intreaties, till her son was convinced, that in pity to her, and justice to himself, he ought to comply; insisting, that to become the object of parish-relief, would be far less afflicting to her than to see him in that situation, and know she had reduced him to it. The very mention of her being brought to receive the poor pittance of parish bounty, accompanied with all

the usual circumstances which must render it insupportable to a woman intitled to, and accustomed to the elegancies of life, overcame Mr. Maningham's fortitude; and in the utmost agonies of spirit he beseeched her, 'not to raise such shocking ideas in his mind, which were alone sufficient to deprive him of reason, and bring a still greater calamity upon him than that which she lamented; desiring her to be assured he could neither blame her or himself for what was passed, as the one had been actuated by duty to her husband, the other by duty to his father; if they had carried it too far, the imprudence was alike on both sides, and the motive equally right.'

The eagerness of both these poor people in the contest, together with the affecting nature of it, for some time put it out of Mr. Ellison's power to interrupt them; but at length addressing Mrs. Maningham, he intreated her to compose herself and be comforted, 'for her son should be released from his confinement without the means

‘ means which must expose her to the distress she solicited. He should no longer remain in that loathsome prison, nor she be deprived of her scanty maintenance.’

The ravishing sound of liberty suspended the grief of these unhappy people; they gazed at Mr. Ellison with astonishment and incredulity. At length Mr. Maningham cried out, ‘ Is it possible my creditor should relent !’ ‘ I believe not,’ replied Mr. Ellison, ‘ but his demand shall be satisfied. I should think myself as blameable as him, were I to suffer you to languish out your life in this place, when it has pleased Providence to give me such ample power of releasing you. I should not have thus broken in upon your afflictions, and as it were pryed in to your sorrows, but with an intention of assuring you they should speedily have an end, and of learning from you where I should address the hard-hearted man, who I suppose thinks himself justified in making you wretched, because his ac-

'tions are legal. As soon as I have obtained this information I will discharge your debt, and see you restored to your liberty.'

Before Mr. Ellison had quite finished what he was saying, he found Mrs. Maningham at his feet, embracing his knees, and shedding such showers of tears, that her joy could find no utterance in words. The excess of her rapture alarmed him, and raised such apprehensions in her son, as moderated his joy, which he expressed in the strongest and most grateful terms; but yet in a manner so temperate, as shewed in him a natural dignity of mind, which enabled him to receive blessings with moderation, as he had supported misfortunes with fortitude. No small time was taken up in calming Mrs. Maningham; she alternately embraced Mr. Ellison with the most lively raptures of gratitude, and her son with joyful congratulations: her sensations seemed too strong for her reason, and it was with great difficulty

ficulty they restored her to any tolerable composure of mind. Nor was Mr. Ellison's in a much better state; the delight he felt at the happiness he had communicated was for a considerable time too much for him, and made him sensible the extremes of contraries almost touch each other, and that immoderate joy excites sensations little different from excess of sorrow.

Notwithstanding the interruption given by the various passions with which these three persons were agitated, Mr. Ellison, before he left the prison, gained a full knowledge of Mr. Maningham's affairs, and an address to his creditor, determining not to leave the town till the debt was paid, and the prisoner discharged. Mr. Maningham begged to be permitted to make over to him his small reversion, that Mr. Ellison might enter into possession after the death of his mother, as it was the only acknowledgment in his power, and he thought it very improper he should
ever

ever be master of any property while Mr. Ellifon was so great a sufferer by his generosity to him; but his benefactor would not listen to this proposal, declaring, that to deprive him of so small a remains of the inheritance to which he was born, would damp the satisfaction he now felt in being able to free him from the most bitter part of his distress, and he should think the work but half done till he could find out some means of enabling him to procure a genteel support. — When he had got the intelligence he wanted, he retired to put his design in execution with all possible speed; and left Mr. and Mrs. Maningham to congratulate each other with more freedom on this fortunate event, which still appeared to them almost incredible. They had several relations of rank and fortune, who thought they had acquitted themselves nobly by sending some small supplies to the prisoner to alleviate the miseries of his situation, nor had he ever expected more from them; he could never therefore sufficiently admire the
mercy

mercy of Providence, who by the hand of a stranger, had sent him a deliverance out of all his sufferings. Mrs. Maningham was inclined to think it really miraculous, and that their benefactor was more than human; supporting this supposition by the very uncommon benignity and sweetness of Mr. Ellison's countenance, which she called truly angelic; and indeed, considering him as a man then upwards of forty years of age, the fineness of his person and his beauty were not to be equalled. Mr. Maningham, being less superstitious, looked on him only as the best of men, and felt similar sensations in his own heart, that persuaded him human nature, properly guided and corrected, was capable of rising to the degree of benevolence visible in his benefactor; but wondered at his own astonishing good fortune in falling under the observation of perhaps the only man of the age, in whom the power and inclination to confer such benefits was so happily united.

C H A P. IX.

THE time Mr. Ellifon was obliged to pass in this town, in order to finish his transaction with Mr. Maningham's creditor, proved of great service to another unfortunate person. When he dined at his lodgings, where he boarded as well as lodged, he observed that his landlady, after helping him, cut a plate of victuals, and bid the servant carry it to Miss. As he was never curious, but where he saw distress which he hoped he might be able to relieve, he took no notice of this, till one day his landlord asked his wife, 'why she did not persuade Miss to come to dinner, and not to sit always moping in her own room?' adding, that 'as she used to dine with them she might do it still, for he was sure no one could object to Mr. Ellifon.' 'I have told her as much,' replied the good woman, 'but she says she is not fit for company; and though we were so good as to bear with her, she cannot.

‘ cannot expect the same indulgence from
‘ every one. But this, I fancy, is not her only
‘ reason : I perceive she is much afraid of
‘ being seen ; she has no doubt some se-
‘ cret reason to avoid being known ; she
‘ best knows what that is.’ ‘ No bad one
‘ I will be sworn,’ replied the man, ‘ she
‘ is a lovely, innocent creature, I am sure ;
‘ I want no better evidence than her coun-
‘ tenance and the gentleness of her beha-
‘ viour.’ ‘ I imagine,’ answered his wife,
‘ half Miss’s beauty would be sufficient to
‘ clear her from the least suspicion of blame
‘ in the opinion of any man in the world.
‘ However, I am of your mind, I am con-
‘ vinced she is as good as she is pretty ;
‘ but had she ever done a wrong thing, I
‘ am sure she must before this time have
‘ washed away the offence with tears, for I
‘ never go into her room but I find the
‘ sweet creature weeping ; it grieves my
‘ very heart to see her, but as she does
‘ not chuse to tell the cause, I do not think
‘ it right to press to know it : but I find
‘ she is not rich, for she has been asking
‘ me

‘ me to-day if there is no plain work put
‘ out in this town, for she should be glad
‘ to take some in. I told her then she must
‘ dry up her tears, for crying and work-
‘ ing together would put out her eyes.
‘ She replied, nothing would go so far to-
‘ wards mending her spirits as business, if
‘ I could procure her any; which I pro-
‘ mised to do.’

The sound of distress immediately drew Mr. Ellison’s attention; he now grew curious, and asked many questions; but all he could learn was, that the young person they meant, and in appearance a woman of fashion, came to their house to ask for a lodging about a week before he arrived in that town. They found she came down in the London-stage, and not making a custom of letting lodgings to any chance comers, they raised some difficulties, and the more on account of her being very handsome, which excited suspicions as to what kind of woman she might be; but the uneasiness she seemed under at meeting with a refusal,

sal, the eagerness with which she entreated them to recommend her to some sober family, and her extreme youth, got the better of their scruples, and they agreed both to lodge and board her; of which they had seen no reason to repent, as her behaviour was extremely amiable; but the continual grief with which she seemed oppressed made them melancholy.

Had Mr. Ellison only heard this young woman was more beautiful than Helen, more captivating than Cleopatra, he would not have pressed to see her; but he no sooner learnt she was unhappy, than he intreated his landlady to find means of introducing him to her acquaintance, which she promised, if possible, to contrive. The best method she could imagine she acquainted him with, telling him she would get her into her room on pretence of delivering her some work, and desired him to come in, seemingly by accident, while they were together. This scheme succeeded to their wish; the young lady could not immediately retire without an appearance

ance of affectation, and they sat about half an hour together engaged in general conversation. After this she had no pretence to refuse her presence at meals, as she now was acquainted with Mr. Ellifson; nor had she much inclination, the politeness of his behaviour, and the agreeableness of his conversation gave her pleasure; and the happy turn of his countenance, which I have already mentioned, made every one who saw him feel a prejudice in his favour.

She had joined the society but two days, before Mr. Ellifson's generosity to Mr. Maningham reached his landlady's ears; for that gentleman's mother felt too lively a gratitude, to be silent on a topic so delightful. This was immediately communicated to the fair lodger; who now rejoiced that accident had forced her into acquaintance with a man so worthy of esteem, though she had then no thought of reaping any benefit from his benevolence. Soon after she had heard the history of
this

this transaction, he entered the parlour, where she was sitting alone at work; and her thoughts being full of it, she expressed her admiration at the account she had just received of his generosity. He replied, that 'if she had really the good opinion of him she expressed, she had it in her power to give him a strong proof of it, which he hoped might be of service to her; for if she believed him worthy of her confidence, and would acquaint him with what seemed to lie so heavy on her spirits, there was nothing he would not do to procure her ease, if it were in his power to effect it.' She did not expect this consequence from her compliment; it a good deal disconcerted her, and she endeavoured to evade a direct answer; but Mr. Ellison renewed the request, and pressed it with so much sincerity and benevolence, that he staggered her resolution of burying the whole in silence: 'he represented the necessity so young a woman saw 'was

‘ was under of having some protector and
‘ adviser; yet how difficult a thing it
‘ would be for her to find, since envy in
‘ her own sex, and the depravity of the
‘ other, would make confidents danger-
‘ ous; assuring her, that she had nothing
‘ to fear from him, whose heart was so
‘ deeply engaged to one woman; that the
‘ most beautiful of the sex could excite
‘ no sensations in him but those of cold
‘ admiration, though when under misfor-
‘ tunes, their charms might increase his
‘ compassion and esteem.’

This unhappy young woman felt the necessity he urged of a protector and adviser, but had not had courage to seek one; Mr. Ellison's behaviour, and so great an instance of his benevolence, disposed her to feel already a confidence in him; he might at least be able to direct her what course to take in order to provide best for herself, and assist her in the means; at least she could fear no ill from a man so truly generous. These reflections, joined

ed with his sollicitations, determined her
 her to treat him with the frankness he
 seemed to deserve; and she told him, she
 would shew, by a full account of herself,
 the entire confidence she placed in him.

‘ My father,’ said she, ‘ whose name is
 ‘ Almon, was a man of good fortune, till
 ‘ the gaming-table deprived him of it.
 ‘ At that time he had the character of a
 ‘ man of probity, and the worst that could
 ‘ be alleged against him was, that he was
 ‘ a dupe; but the poverty which our fol-
 ‘ lies brings upon us is a dangerous state;
 ‘ few perhaps have withstood the trials
 ‘ to which it exposes them, at least my fa-
 ‘ ther did not; he determined the gaming-
 ‘ table should repair some of the damage it
 ‘ had done him, and with this view join-
 ‘ ed a set of sharpers, who after having
 ‘ shared in his spoils, willingly admitted
 ‘ him to partake those of the other dupes
 ‘ that should fall in their way. Thus dis-
 ‘ tress corrupted the man whom folly
 ‘ had ruined. My mother was not more
 ‘ afflicted

‘ afflicted at the loss of their fortune than
‘ at the means my father took to relieve
‘ the necessities to which he had reduced
‘ her and himself; but all she could urge
‘ against it was ineffectual, and served on-
‘ ly to exasperate him. The company he
‘ had engaged in obtained as compleat a
‘ conquest over his other virtues, as they
‘ had gained over his integrity; and my
‘ mother soon found that gaming was not
‘ his only vice. As he had lost her esteem,
‘ I believe she escaped many of the pains
‘ of jealousy; for most of the uneasiness I
‘ can recollect having seen her suffer,
‘ seemed to arise from the melancholy
‘ knowledge she had acquired of the gene-
‘ ral depravity of his mind, and from her
‘ fears for me, whose only chance of for-
‘ tune must depend on the cast of a dye.
‘ Her whole care was dedicated to my
‘ education; and while she gave me such
‘ an one as might suit her best hopes, she
‘ endeavoured to prepare and fit me for
‘ the worst that could happen; at least the
‘ worst that she foresaw. But I had the
‘ misfor-

‘ misfortune to lose this excellent parent
‘ before I was quite fifteen years old. My
‘ youth did not render me insensible to
‘ the loss I herein sustained; but it was
‘ greatly heightened by my father’s bring-
‘ ing home a woman, who I since learnt
‘ he had long kept as a mistress.

‘ This addition to my grief was too
‘ great for my health; the effect it had
‘ upon my mind reduced me into a very
‘ declining condition, and every day shew-
‘ ed me fresh reasons to lament the dread-
‘ ful exchange; for this woman assumed
‘ the authority of the most absolute pa-
‘ rent, and at the same time treated me
‘ with all the appearances of aversion,
‘ which the general brutality of her man-
‘ ner made more grievous, as it broke
‘ forth in the coarsest and lowest expres-
‘ sions. But whatever cause I and the ser-
‘ vants had to complain of her tyranny,
‘ my father bore his full share, and was
‘ so entirely subdued by the violence of
‘ her spirit, that he never attempted to

‘ resist her, but was as implicitly obedi-
‘ ent as if he had been a child. Her ill
‘ usage was not all I had to suffer : the
‘ company she kept were like herself, and
‘ our house became the rendezvous of the
‘ lowest and vilest people ; sharpers and
‘ prostitutes were now to be my con-
‘ stant companions ; and I have since been
‘ very thankful that by being remarkably
‘ little of my age, and by my very sickly
‘ appearance, I so long seemed unworthy
‘ of their notice. My relations invited
‘ me to their houses ; but as they would
‘ not visit at ours, my father insisted on
‘ my refusing their invitation ; in resent-
‘ ment for their absenting themselves from
‘ a place, where no person of character
‘ could with propriety appear.

‘ In this melancholy situation I conti-
‘ nued near three years, still declining in
‘ health ; but youth resisted sickness. I
‘ was reduced to a skeleton, and looked
‘ more like a corpse than a living crea-
‘ ture, when my father and his mistress
deter-

‘determined on going to Tunbridge,
‘where I was to accompany them, much
‘against my inclination, feeling very sen-
‘sibly the disgrace of being seen with so
‘infamous a woman; but I was obliged to
‘comply, and to undergo the ignominy of
‘appearing publickly among prostitutes.
‘No young person spoke to me; the men
‘saw no attractions in a walking corpse;
‘and the young women were obliged, in
‘regard to their reputations, to avoid me.
‘I met indeed with a few old ladies, who
‘had no daughters or nieces belonging to
‘them, that seemed to compassionate my
‘situation, and whose kind notice was a
‘great relief to my spirits; and taking
‘advantage of the liberty they gave me,
‘I attached myself as much to them as
‘possible, but was obliged to great pre-
‘cautions, to prevent my father’s mis-
‘tress from perceiving that I did it to
‘avoid, as far as lay in my power, being
‘seen with her.

‘ Either the satisfaction I received from
‘ the civility of these good people, or the
‘ waters, did wonders in regard to my health;
‘ my worst complaints left me; and at the
‘ conclusion of the season, my pallidness
‘ began to give place to youthful bloom.
‘ The good effects were still more visi-
‘ ble after I had left the place about a
‘ month; I grew fat, and acquired that
‘ air of health which I still retain;
‘ but soon had reason to wish I had pre-
‘ served my ghastly appearance.

‘ A young gentleman just come into
‘ the possession of a large fortune, which
‘ he seemed in haste to dissipate in gam-
‘ ing and other vices, made some acquaint-
‘ tance with us at Tunbridge, where he
‘ arrived but a week before we left it;
‘ and upon his coming to town visited us.
‘ This civility was frequently renewed,
‘ and in a short time I appeared the ob-
‘ ject of his attentions. This was seen
‘ with pleasure by my father’s mistress;
‘ and my father shewed no objection to it.

‘ She

' She often represented to me that I was
 ' very fortunate in having acquired so
 ' rich a lover, and would enumerate all
 ' the pleasures wealth could bestow; en-
 ' deavouring to flatter my vanity in every
 ' article, and to render it a snare to me.
 ' In a short time this gentleman was sel-
 ' dom out of the house, and all opportu-
 ' nities were taken to leave us alone. His
 ' addresses were tender and importunate;
 ' but accompanied with a familiarity odi-
 ' ous to me, and this even before my fa-
 ' ther and his mistress, who laughed at my
 ' anger, and treated my complaints as the
 ' dictates of ignorance and folly.

' At length he spoke his views so plain-
 ' ly, that I fled from him in a rage; and
 ' while my resentment was in full force,
 ' ran to my father, and told him how vile
 ' a wretch he received into his house; one
 ' whose sole intention was to render his
 ' daughter an infamous prostitute, with
 ' many other terms as strong, which my
 ' anger suggested. These, together with

‘ the disappointment my behaviour gave
‘ her, put his mistress, who was present,
‘ into a violent passion : she asked my fa-
‘ ther if he would bear to hear her abused
‘ in such a manner ? that my resentment
‘ was affected, but my insolence to her
‘ real ; that all I had said was only de-
‘ signed to reflect on her ; and for that
‘ purpose I had taken advantage of the
‘ prejudices of fools ; for I could not be
‘ so silly as to think marriage was any
‘ thing more than a bargain of interest ;
‘ with much profligate stuff to the same
‘ purpose. My father took fire, and
‘ treated me as roughly as she had done ;
‘ nor would he pay any attention to the
‘ indignity offered me, which seemed by
‘ no means to offend him. This not only
‘ shocked, but alarmed me ; what had I
‘ not to fear in a house where every vice
‘ seemed licensed, and where even my
‘ father would not protect me ! The an-
‘ guish of my mind was inexpressible. A
‘ wretch placed on the brink of a preci-
‘ pice, without any visible means of re-
‘ tiring,

' tiring, could not feel greater terrors
 ' than those I lived in. I tried to move
 ' my father when alone ; but he laughed
 ' at my distress, and said, that to have
 ' gained the affections of a young man
 ' who was master of five thousand a year,
 ' was indeed a terrible misfortune. When
 ' I urged that it certainly was one to be
 ' exposed daily to hear that man declare
 ' his dishonourable views, and to bear
 ' the continual repetition of his odious,
 ' because shameful addresses, anger then
 ' took the place of contempt, and he for-
 ' bad my teasing him with my prudish
 ' nonsense.

' I could no longer doubt but my fa-
 ' ther was totally indifferent, in an article
 ' which I imagined would most sensibly
 ' affect a parent ; but I should never have
 ' suspected him of any greater degree of
 ' depravity, if one the servants had not
 ' opened my eyes. She was sent by my
 ' father to let me know my lover was in

‘ the dining-room waiting for me, and I
‘ must go to him directly. So disagree-
‘ able a command drew tears from my
‘ eyes; and in the bitterness of vexation
‘ I cried out, How can he expose me to
‘ the addresses of so unworthy a wretch!
‘ why must I again see the man, whom
‘ but to listen to is infamy! The wo-
‘ man, looking stedfastly at me, said, Are
‘ you in earnest, madam, in the reluctance
‘ you express? I imagined so rich a lo-
‘ ver must be agreeable, especially as he is
‘ certainly a handsome man. How, I re-
‘ plied, can *be* be agreeable whose love
‘ only seeks my destruction? I can see
‘ no beauty in the man who would dis-
‘ honour me; nor will I any longer endure
‘ his insults; a parent’s authority cannot
‘ justify my disgracing him or myself. I
‘ will not stir out of my room while that
‘ man is in the house.

‘ I pity you from my heart, madam,’
said the servant, ‘ for I fear all resist-
‘ *ance*

‘ance will be vain. I have yet no right
‘to expect your confidence, but I will
‘deserve it, by telling you more than I
‘suppose you know, or perhaps will be-
‘lieve. You may think ill of me for
‘living in this house, but my pocket being
‘reduced very low by a long sickness, I
‘was so glad to take the first service offer-
‘ed me, that I made no inquiry into the
‘character of my mistress; but I had not
‘passed a day in the house before I learnt
‘into what a scrape my impatience had
‘betrayed me. Had I heard as much
‘before I was hired, I certainly should
‘not have come; because the disgrace
‘of such a service will probably be an im-
‘pediment to my getting a better; how-
‘ever, when I was once entered, I could
‘not resolve to throw myself again out of
‘place, and therefore determined to stay
‘till I could hear of another, and no
‘longer shall I remain here; this I tell
‘you to shew I may not be absolutely un-
‘deserving of your credit; and now must
‘inform you, that as I sat at work in my

‘ mistresses closet, I over-heard her bar-
‘ gaining with your lover for your person.
‘ She required him to give her a thousand
‘ pounds when he obtained possession of
‘ you ; he endeavoured to bring her to a
‘ more moderate price, but she insisting
‘ he complied, and only desired she would
‘ entitle herself to the money as soon as
‘ possible, for your behaviour made him
‘ fear he should not easily succeed. She
‘ bad him not despair, she wished it might
‘ be quietly brought about, and there-
‘ fore desired he would double his assidui-
‘ ty, and omit no means of gaining either
‘ your affections or your vanity on his
‘ side ; the latter, she observed, would be
‘ most effectual ; though she supposed so
‘ passionate a lover would rather owe his
‘ success to mutual love ; that she and my
‘ master would on their part do all they
‘ could to drive the foolish girl into his
‘ arms ; but if gentle means avail not,
‘ added she, depend on my word, force
‘ or stratagem shall make her yours ; but
‘ you ought to encourage me by some
‘ pre-

' present token of your generosity. He
 ' immediately, I suppose to keep her zeal
 ' alive, pulled a fine diamond ring (you
 ' have seen him wear) from his finger,
 ' and put it on hers. Now, said she, I
 ' perceive you are worth serving. This,
 ' madam, I wished to tell you a month
 ' ago, but knew not how you would re-
 ' ceive it. Perhaps I am doing your lo-
 ' ver service, by shewing you the strength
 ' of his passion. But the thousand pounds
 ' is a small part of the price he pays, as
 ' my master and he generally engage at
 ' piquet or hazard after he has made his
 ' visit to you; the little attention he then
 ' gives to his play, added to the common
 ' gamesters arts, draws great sums from
 ' him.'

' I was like one thunderstruck with this
 ' narration. At first my heart recoiled,
 ' and endeavoured to exculpate my fa-
 ' ther; but recollection convinced me he
 ' could not be entirely ignorant of this
 ' transaction; terror almost turned my
 ' brain,

F 6.

‘brain, I rose from my chair, and declared I would fly out of the house that instant, but the servant caught hold of me: That, said she, will be to no purpose, you will be seen and brought back; it will only hasten the execution of the diabolical design. Take my advice, madam, compose yourself, appear ignorant of all I have told you; go to your lover, and lull their suspicions asleep by concealing yours, till you can with a better prospect of success make your escape.

‘I saw she was right, but to compose my spirits was impossible; I trembled all over, and looked more frightened than the most guilty criminal; however, I promised to obey my father’s summons as soon as I was able; but intreated her to watch my return to my chamber, and to come to me, when we might more calmly consider of the best means to escape the snares laid for me.

‘I had

' I had no sooner said these words than
 ' my lover entered, sent by my father,
 ' who apprehended from my delay that I
 ' should not attend him. He, perceiving
 ' I was in tears, and extremely agitated,
 ' enquired into the cause, with all the
 ' tenderness he could assume, or perhaps
 ' he really felt it ; but I was too much
 ' disgusted to allow him even the merit
 ' of pitying me. He intreated to know
 ' the cause of my uneasiness, and professed
 ' the highest indignation against any one
 ' who could occasion me a moment's pain ;
 ' but all these affectionate expressions end-
 ' ed in an offer to share his fortune, and
 ' under his tender protection to be secur-
 ' ed from every vexatious circumstance
 ' that might now afflict me ; little know-
 ' ing that he was my principal torment,
 ' nor did I think it prudent to acquaint
 ' him that it was so ; but according to the
 ' advice the servant had given me, sup-
 ' pressed my resentment as much as I was
 ' able, and seemed less offended by his
 ' insolent proposal than before ; but with
 6 equal

‘ equal obstinacy repelled his addressees;
‘ and in a shorter time than usual he was
‘ summoned to the card-table.

‘ When my adviser found I was alone,
‘ she returned to me, and agreed to let me
‘ out of the house as soon as the family
‘ was in bed, and conduct me to a stage
‘ waggon, which was to set out at three
‘ in the morning, observing that the
‘ meanness of the vehicle was the best se-
‘ curity against my being discovered; and
‘ I might leave it for one better suited to
‘ me whenever I thought proper. She
‘ added, that were she suspected of hav-
‘ ing any hand in my flight, she should
‘ not care, as she had just heard of a
‘ place she might have, and should not
‘ be sorry to be turned away directly.
‘ The thoughts of getting from a house
‘ where I was so dangerously circumstanc-
‘ ed, gave me so much satisfaction, that
‘ I neither foresaw the difficulties to which
‘ I was going to be exposed, nor the pre-
‘ cautions necessary to alleviate them;
‘ but

‘ but my guide was more prudent, and
‘ having sent me to sit with her mistress,
‘ packed up all my things that were of any
‘ value.

‘ After supper, my father and his com-
‘ pany sat down again to the card-table ;
‘ my lover insisted on betting with me ;
‘ my father encouraged him, and, as I
‘ was desirous of keeping them in good
‘ humour, I complied ; he lost, and again
‘ challenged me : thus we went on, till I
‘ found myself winner of three and twenty
‘ guineas, which proved a fortunate cir-
‘ cumstance, as I had not quite five in my
‘ pocket, too small a sum for setting out
‘ with to seek one’s fortune ; but the tu-
‘ mult of my spirits had prevented my re-
‘ flecting on that difficulty.

‘ At twelve o’clock I retired to my
‘ chamber, but the company did not break
‘ up till two in the morning. No two hours
‘ ever seemed longer to me than these,
‘ in which I was agitated by a thousand
‘ hopes

‘ hopes and fears. All the hazards which
‘ attended the step I was going to take,
‘ now presented themselves to my view,
‘ and excited in me apprehensions ade-
‘ quate to the reason I had for them; but
‘ the more certain danger by staying in
‘ that house, kept up my resolution.
‘ Whatever evils could befall me in my
‘ flight, might be relieved by time.
‘ Industry can conquer poverty, vir-
‘ tue may put slander to silence, but the
‘ misfortune which threatened me in the
‘ place that ought to have been my asy-
‘ lum from all such dangers, was of a
‘ kind never to be redressed; for shame
‘ justly incurred can never be wiped off,
‘ nor can the blasted reputation be restor-
‘ ed; the vicious may return to virtue,
‘ but the infamous can never regain the
‘ esteem of the world. The various re-
‘ flexions which occurred to my mind,
‘ therefore, during the tedious two hours,
‘ instead of staggering me in my purpose,
‘ only rendered me more impatient to ex-
‘ ecute it; and my joy was great, when
‘ my deliverer informed me all the family
‘ but

‘ but ourselves were in bed, and she was
‘ ready to attend me. I did not make her
‘ wait ; she took up my bundle, and hav-
‘ ing stolen out of the house without mak-
‘ ing any noise, we arrived at the inn she
‘ had mentioned to me, just before the
‘ waggon set out. I took an affectionate
‘ farewell of my guide, who by this action
‘ had much endeared herself to me, and
‘ mounted my uncouth equipage.

‘ We had some hours to travel before
‘ break of day, therefore I could not im-
‘ mediately discover my companions, but
‘ I found I had some. As they were not of
‘ a sort accustomed to ceremony, very
‘ slight civilities passed between us, and I
‘ perceived that most of them were soon
‘ asleep. I admired the power of Mor-
‘ pheus, though I had not the happiness
‘ of being under his influence, that
‘ could conquer the uneasiness of the ve-
‘ hicle, which for want of use appeared
‘ very disagreeable to me ; but was no just
‘ reason for complaint, as it in some
‘ mea-

‘ measure interrupted a train of reflexions
‘ that were certainly far more painful.
‘ The return of day dispelled part of my
‘ melancholy, and I was well pleased with
‘ my fellow travellers, who seemed sober
‘ people, but looked at me with surprize,
‘ as on one who they thought rather above
‘ that method of travelling; for though
‘ I had cloathed myself in the worst things
‘ I had, and particularly in an old linnen
‘ gown, yet all together my dress had too
‘ much air and smartness in it; but that
‘ was unavoidable, for I had not had time
‘ to equip myself more properly. As it
‘ excited some curiosity, it exposed me to
‘ several questions, but by passing myself
‘ off for a lady’s chamber-maid, I satisfied
‘ them pretty well; they a little wondered
‘ at my humility, but commended it;
‘ and had so often seen people in that si-
‘ tuation, wear the air of their superiors
‘ as well as their cloaths, that my ap-
‘ pearance no longer seemed extraordi-
‘ nary.

‘ The

‘ The better to secure me from being
 ‘ discovered, in case any search was
 ‘ made for me, and likewise out of some
 ‘ regard to expence, as I was sensible I
 ‘ should find sufficient occasion for my
 ‘ little fund, I continued to travel in the
 ‘ waggon till I came within one stage
 ‘ of this town, and then got into the
 ‘ stage-coach, thinking I should more
 ‘ easily procure a decent lodging if I
 ‘ arrived in that vehicle than in the
 ‘ other.

‘ I was so fortunate as to prevail with
 ‘ the people of this house to let me a
 ‘ chamber, and have received very kind
 ‘ treatment from them. The forlornness
 ‘ of my situation, my melancholy prospect
 ‘ for the future part of my life, and
 ‘ a more afflicting retrospection, have
 ‘ made an impression on my spirits, I fear
 ‘ never to be removed. The three last
 ‘ years of my life have been wretched;
 ‘ I am thankful to Providence that those
 ‘ which

‘ which remain are now not likely to be
‘ infamous and guilty ; but even the sense
‘ of this blessing cannot remove my
‘ dejection ; time may do much ; in that
‘ my hopes are placed ; and being reduc-
‘ ed to gain my subsistence, may be an
‘ happy circumstance, as employment is
‘ the best cure for the griefs of the mind ;
‘ and necessity is a spur to industry, with-
‘ out which the melancholy are apt to
‘ grow indolent. You will not, I ima-
‘ gine, now, Sir, wonder at my back-
‘ wardness, in telling the occasion of my
‘ coming to this place ; a father’s shame
‘ ought as much as possible to be con-
‘ cealed, and you are the only person
‘ here, in whom I feel a confidence that
‘ can lead me to reveal what makes the
‘ bitterest part of my afflictions ; for the
‘ pains of poverty are small, in compari-
‘ son to those I suffer when I reflect on
‘ the part my unhappy father has acted
‘ towards me. You will likewise perceive
‘ why I so carefully avoid being seen ;
‘ for

* for having appeared a good deal in the
 * world, I am in danger of being known.'

Mr. Ellison told Miss Almon, ' he much
 * approved her reserve ; for nothing so
 * well became a child as to conceal the
 * failings of her parents, but few, he trust-
 * ed, had been so severely tried ; for the
 * account she had given him had chilled
 * his blood with horror, and shewed such
 * baseness, as must appear incredible to
 * any person who had not observed how
 * one vice serves only as the first step to-
 * wards iniquity, always leading to many
 * others ; an invincible reason for avoid-
 * ing the least criminal indulgence. The
 * first sin, he observed, is generally com-
 * mitted with reluctance, and followed
 * by compunction ; but by repeated
 * wounds, conscience grows callous ; and
 * he who trembled at the first wrong step,
 * rising by degrees to the summit of wick-
 * edness, commits at last the greatest
 * crimes almost without remorse.'

Mr.

Mr. Ellifson got time, before they were interrupted, to inquire into Miss Almon's intentions concerning her future way of life, wherein he found her intirely undetermined ; and proposed that at some other opportunity they should talk over the most advisable course, he being then equally at a loss.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir GEORGE ELLISON.

BOOK IV. CHAP. I.

THE first opportunity Mr. Ellison had of entertaining Miss Almon alone, he asked her, 'If she had any objection to going to Jamaica, where he had a sister-in-law, under whose protection she would be safe; for between the real danger, and her perhaps too strong apprehensions of being known, she would probably be exposed to great inconveniencies in England.'

Miss

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Miss Almon replied, ' That no person
' could have less reason to be attached to
' her native land, than she who had no
' friend in it on whom she could depend;
' and in reality she had rather go into ano-
' ther country, than be as it were an ali-
' en in her own; therefore if he could
' put her into a way of gaining a main-
' tenance there, she should embrace it
' with pleasure; but begged he would
' not be offended if she took the liberty of
' telling him, that if he meant she should
' presume so far on any personal advanta-
' ges, as to go over with an intention of
' seeking a husband, which she had heard
' was often done successfully, she could
' not accept his offer, as she might pro-
' bably disappoint his friendly view; for
' she had always looked on that proceed-
' ing as one kind of prostitution, and she
' was equally determined to avoid all sorts.
' Both virtue and pride, she thought, for-
' bad making a traffic of her person; and
' her chance of marrying must be small,
' as she should certainly not wed a man
' for

‘for whom she had not a real esteem and regard, and she imagined the probability was rather against her being addressed by one for whom she could feel those sensations.’

Mr. Ellison answered, ‘That he had too good an opinion of her delicacy, to entertain any such design. He thought she could not fail of having it in her power to marry advantageously, but he should be sorry to see her go to Jamaica on that scheme. His view was what, perhaps, by many young ladies would be thought more affronting, but he believed would prove more agreeable to her.’ He then proceeded to say, ‘That his brother had two daughters, his wife was a very worthy woman, with an understanding by nature uncommonly good ; but having had no opportunity of receiving any education, she was not capable of giving it to her children. He perceived that Miss Almon had had great advantages of that

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kind, and he did not doubt but she was able to communicate them; he had particularly in conversation discovered that she was mistress of the French language, and the thing that occurred to his thoughts, was, that if she liked to go over to Jamaica, she would be an agreeable friend to his sister, and a most useful instructor of her children; and might depend on having every thing made as easy to her as possible; for his sister would receive any assistance she gave her in regard to her children, as the highest obligation, and think she by no means acquitted herself of the debt by the best pecuniary returns, or the greatest respect with which she could treat her.

Miss Almon declared, That with the utmost joy she accepted his offer; and could never sufficiently acknowledge how much she was obliged to him. She saw that by plain-work she could at best gain but a very scanty provision; so poor an one as must reduce her

' to go into a much cheaper lodging, and
 ' consequently associate with very low
 ' people. She could not think of apply-
 ' ing to any of her relations, as she could
 ' not hope for their protection without
 ' she told them how greatly she stood in
 ' need of it, and she chose to suffer any
 ' degree of poverty, rather than repre-
 ' sent her father to them in a light still
 ' worse than they already beheld him.
 ' Were she to attempt service, it must be
 ' very difficult for her, unknown to every
 ' one ; and without recommendation to
 ' get a tolerable place ; but were she so
 ' fortunate, as he observed, her being dis-
 ' covered, or her apprehensions of being
 ' so, would render her unhappy. He
 ' therefore had found out the only means
 ' of relieving her from her cares, and had
 ' reconciled her to the thought of accept-
 ' ing favours from his sister, by making her
 ' believe she might be useful, which would
 ' be her assiduous endeavour ; and in the
 ' employment, and the change of country
 ' and climate, she hoped to drive from her

‘mind almost the remembrance that she
‘ever had a father, or more lively prof-
‘pects.’

Nothing can give much higher gratification than to see people readily and joyfully enter into our views to serve them. Mr. Ellison was delighted with the pleasure which appeared in Miss Almon's countenance on this occasion, and he completed her satisfaction by letting her know that a ship, the master of which was his old acquaintance, would sail for Jamaica in a fortnight's time. He immediately wrote to this gentleman to provide her with every thing necessary for her voyage, and desired him to employ some female friend in making proper additions to her apparel, of the kind most fit for the country.

Some people lose the merit of their good actions by the ungraceful manner in which they perform them; but Mr. Ellison was not so bad an œconomist; he obliged more

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in the manner of conferring a favour, than in the benefit he bestowed ; by the latter indeed he engaged the receiver's gratitude, but by the former he gained their affections. He never left a good office imperfect, and therefore determined to conduct Miss Almon to the ship himself, that under his care she might travel with safety and convenience ; but delayed it as long as the time would allow, in hopes of finishing Mr. Maningham's affairs before he set out, that he might not be obliged to return to that town again. This he effected to his wish, and had the pleasure of seeing the young man at liberty ; but as he considered that if he stopped there he should but in part relieve his distress, he desired he would meet him at his own house at his return from Miss Almon, and give him the pleasure of his company, till they could find out some employment that would procure him an independance. As Mrs. Maningham was very inconveniently lodged, and the town where,

in order to be near her son, she had been induced till then to fix, was too expensive, he offered her a very pretty apartment in a neat farm-house he had built on his estate, and begged she would accompany her son in his visit to him, that she might have an opportunity of judging whether his offer was worth her acceptance.

This affair being so successfully concluded, Mr. Ellison conducted Miss Almon to the ship which was to convey her to Jamaica; and having delivered her a letter of the strongest recommendation to Mrs. Ellison, given every order requisite to her best accommodation, and seen the ship set sail, he returned home, where, among the rest that welcomed him on his arrival, he found Mr. and Mrs. Maningham, who came the day before. As Mr. Ellison felt a kind of paternal affection for all his dependants, a return to his own house was always a season of joy.

The

The object of his tenderest sensations were his son, who first received his fondest caresses ; his kind notice then extended through all his family ; the little infants of his meanest domestics were brought to welcome him home with smiles, if their tongues were not yet able to lisp their joy, and were all received with tokens of affection. Sir William's family had their share in this intercourse of satisfaction, and all the poorer sort of neighbours, who were below the ceremonies which gentility imposes, flocked to his house with inquiries after his health, and received their answer in the most pleasing manner from himself. The joy that sat on every countenance on these occasions, could not fail imparting correspondent sensations in Mr. Ellison, but this time he received hopes of still higher pleasure, being informed that Dr. Tunstall was dangerously ill of a fever, occasioned by a succession of entertainments, at each of which he had drank to excess.

This news immediately gave rise to some hopes in Mr. Ellifson's breast, which he endeavoured to suppress; and took his heart severely to task for its inhumanity in feeling pleasing emotions, from any circumstance that was calamitous to another. He turned his thoughts as much as he could from the flattering side of this event, and with sincerity lamented the fate of a man, who was likely to be so soon sent into eternity, by a vice which rendered him unfit for the judgment to which it hurried him. He considered likewise Mrs. Tunstall as then in a most melancholy situation. It was natural to suppose her affection for the Doctor must be greatly abated; but at such a time the faults of a friend are forgotten, and the vice which has brought with it so heavy a punishment, is diminished by the voice of compassion into a mere unhappy failing; the sufferer is no longer blamed, tender pity takes the place of censure, and remembrance represents nothing to the mind

mind but his virtues : When the first violence of grief is over, the memory becomes more impartial, and recollection then administers consolation. But Mrs. Tunstall's grief, though probably excessive only for a season, touched Mr. Ellison nearly ; yet he thought it not proper to enquire in person after her, but sought his information from her father, by whom he conveyed some supply for the necessary expences of sickness, which could not fail to be well received, as she believed it the gift of paternal bounty.

The accounts of Dr. Tunstall's health grew daily worse, and Mr. Ellison found, that notwithstanding his warmest endeavours to suppress sensations he thought ungenerous and inhuman, yet his heart would by no means qualify him for chief mourner ; joy and sorrow are generally equally disobedient to our commands, they will neither come nor go at our bidding, though we may conceal, and in

some degree restrain their emotions. But we are apt to endeavour assiduously to deceive ourselves. As Mr. Ellison did not approve his sensations on this occasion, he wished to hide them from himself; but nature would exert her power, and frequently make him feel that generosity and reason have their bounds, and whatever pains he might take to extend their sway, nature could not be entirely inflaved; like the generous subjects of a free country, she may be governed by laws, and influenced by wisdom, but she will not submit implicitly to arbitrary rule; and he was reduced to sigh over the weakness of his virtue, which he found was not strong enough to conquer the selfishness that made him hear with secret pleasure that Dr. Tunstall was given over, who in a few days after died.

Had Mr. Ellison obeyed the impulse of his heart, he would have flown to the disconsolate widow, and endeavoured, by
all

all the tender sensibilities that can spring from friendship, to have soothed her grief; but he feared such a conduct might appear scarcely decent in one whose sentiments were so well known; and while he acted only as a friend, her reputation might be wounded by being supposed so soon to receive the assiduities of a lover, and her delicacy offended by any marks of regard which might bear the appearance of so early a renewal of his former addresses. These considerations made him forbear visiting her; and the pleasure that must arise from the revival of his hopes, might well enable him to support patiently the mortification. Not that his hopes were of the most flattering kind. Mrs. Tunstall being left with only the fortune Mr. Ellison had given her, to provide for herself and three young children, he had great reason to suppose, that when decency would permit, she might accept a hand that would make her mistress of large possessions: his conduct too had been such

as must have inspired her with an esteem for him, and therefore from inclination, as much as from interest, she might be induced to marry him; but these were neither of them motives that could content a lover of delicacy. Mr. Ellison's passion had suffered no diminution by his former disappointment; he still loved Mrs. Tunstall to excess; and was sensible that if her heart made him no return beyond esteem and gratitude, however satisfied his reason might be, his tenderness would be severely mortified. An ardent lover is apt to be even capriciously delicate, and requiring an equal return of passion, can find nothing but disappointment in the sober, rational affection of one unactuated by the same delirium. These considerations rendered Mr. Ellison's hopes less intoxicating than was necessary for his content; he, who in other cases thought the pleasure of conferring obligations so great, that no gratitude from the receiver was wanting to heighten it; on the present

sent occasion felt, that however delightful it might be to place Mrs. Tunstall in affluence and ease, yet his happiness must be very imperfect if she did not in return yield him the tenderest affections of her heart. In these delicate fears, and lover-like scruples, Mr. Ellison is likely to continue some time, and therefore to him we will leave them for the present, and only observe, that he doomed himself to abstain from her sight for the first half year of her widowhood; an instance of great self-denial, and done more from an apprehension of offending her delicacy (for he knew it was impossible for him to conceal his love under the mask of friendship or still colder civility) than to avoid exciting the tattle of the neighbourhood, or the censure of the malicious.

About this time Mr. Ellison received a pleasure which he had no pretence to reproach himself for being sensible of: a letter from his brother informed him that
fortune

fortune was become more propitious, and he now succeeded in his merchandize even beyond his hopes, and was equally fortunate in every other particular; the virtues of his amiable wife, and the delight he took in his lovely children, rendering his domestic life a constant scene of felicity.

C H A P. II.

WITH Mr. James Ellifon's letter Mr. Ellifon received one from his steward, in answer to a scheme he had proposed to his consideration, for establishing a school at Port-Royal. Mr. Ellifon was concerned to see the disadvantages the West-Indians laboured under in regard to education. There was then no tolerable school in the whole island of Jamaica, except those he had instituted for his slaves; and they were of a sort too low for the heirs to large fortunes, who ought to learn more languages than their own, and not confine

confine their knowledge to the narrow bounds which suit those born to a servile state. The sending their sons into England for education, was subject to some inconveniencies ; the unwillingness a parent must naturally feel to part with a child to so great a distance, occasioned its being generally too long delayed : then when in England, being removed from parental care and authority, they were too apt to neglect their studies, or what was still worse, to be seduced into vice and extravagance. Beside, the expence of sending them over for education, was too great for those who had not already made their fortunes ; whereby some, who became at length the richest men in the island, were destitute of all literary improvement.

As Mr. Ellison was ever endeavouring to do good, he had formed a plan for a school, and desired Mr. Hammond to sound the inclination of the inhabitants,
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in order to learn whether, if he could meet with a person properly qualified to execute it, he might hope for encouragement proportioned to his merit. This had been done with success; and his steward informed him that several gentlemen had promised to commit their sons to the care of any one, who brought an assurance from him of being well qualified for the trust. They might indeed safely enter into this engagement, for Mr. Ellison was much more delicate in the choice of a school-master, than they would have judged necessary. A man able to teach the common branches of learning, and whose conduct was not flagrantly immoral, was in little danger of not appearing to them sufficiently qualified; but Mr. Ellison's view would have been but ill answered, if he had not found one as capable of instructing his pupils in virtue as in learning; one whose heart would warmly enter into the importance of the charge, and animate him in the pursuit of the measures his understanding should suggest

to him as most effectual; such as were the result of his own reason, and careful observation of the various tempers of his pupils; properly varied and adapted to their several dispositions, and not regulated by custom, and those rules which are indiscriminately applied to all children, though possibly rendered by their different tempers as hurtful to some as useful to others.

Common pedagogues are easily found, but such a man as Mr. Ellison required seemed to promise a long and difficult search; and probably might have proved so, had not Mr. Maningham fallen within his notice. He had invited that gentleman to his house, as much with a design of discovering what way of life was most suitable to his inclination and genius, as to enable him to live with ease and comfort, till he could be provided with some profitable employment. He soon found him a man who had made good use of a liberal education, a master
of

of the Greek and Latin tongues, and well read in polite literature. His judgment excellent, his understanding solid and grave, his temper calm, but firm; and the whole course of his past life joined with all that could be gathered from his conversation, to convince Mr. Ellison that he was uncommonly strict and pure in religion and virtue. He immediately shewed an inclination to employ his leisure in the assistance of Mr. Green, and seemed to find a charm in the business of education, which induced Mr. Ellison to mention his design of establishing a school in Jamaica: but as he always feared to propose any thing of importance to those who were under considerable obligations to him, lest they should acquiesce more out of compliance or grateful submission, than from inclination, he only spoke of it in discourse as if he had no particular view in mentioning it. Mr. Maningham at the time merely approved his design; but enquired into the particulars of his plan, with a degree of curiosity which

which shewed it a good deal engaged his attention. The next day he led Mr. Ellison into the same subject, and then expressed a wish that he were capable of the office, as it was an employment he should like, and in which he might expect more speedy success than in any other.

Mr. Ellison's desire was now fully gratified; he replied, that 'he could not have hoped to meet with a person so well qualified, and had wished it might be agreeable to him; but had forbore to propose it, fearing to influence him in an affair wherein he was desirous he should act only from inclination; since that so happily coincided with his wishes, he assured him he would joyfully defray all the expences of his voyage and first setting out, and secure to him a very good income, till the number of his scholars made any other assistance unnecessary.'

Mr.

Mr. Maningham, who had been much at a loss what way of life to embrace, which at his age, and destitute of fortune, was a difficult point to determine, felt his mind much at ease on seeing this dilemma removed. The change of country seemed desirable to one in desperate circumstances; and he depended more on his heart than his understanding, for rendering him fit for the office; to the rectitude of the former he could be no stranger, though of the excellence of the latter he was less convinced than any who conversed with him; but he thought a common share of judgment and good sense, under the direction of a heart that is desirous of acquitting itself to the very best of its power, might enable a man of sufficient learning to do his duty successfully in the education of youth. But when he acquainted his mother with his intention, she was shocked with the apprehension of losing so soon a son, who she seemed to have but just recovered;

for while he lay in prison, he was an object of pain, rather than of pleasure to her. After a little reflection, a means of preventing this evil occurred, which was no other than accompanying him; and she trusted, that while she was thus gratifying her fondness for him, she might be of some use, as in a school female care is a necessary addition to the instructions of the master. She acquainted Mr. Ellison with her desire, who much approved it; and Mr. Maningham now prepared for his journey with double pleasure, all his attachment to England being broken by carrying his mother with him, though he was not void of apprehensions lest the climate might disagree with her: but she had no such fears; she thought nothing amiss could happen while she was with her son; to be parted from whom seemed now the only evil that could befall her; and when secured from that misfortune, neither sea nor climate appeared to her accompanied with any horrors.

Mr.

Mr. Ellison took upon himself the care of providing them with every thing necessary; and as he thought Mr. Maningham might possibly find it difficult to procure proper books there, he bought him all that could be useful in his school; and before he parted with them they were possessed of every convenience. He likewise undertook to remit Mrs. Maningham's jointure regularly. With hearts overflowing with gratitude they took leave of their benefactor; and though they could not bid him adieu without being deeply touched, yet they found great consolation in the warm hopes of being more favoured by fortune in the new world they were going to explore, than they had been in that they left. Their kindred stood in no great need of comfort, for few people grieve at the removal of poor relations, who seem to have a demand upon them, of which they have not generosity to acquit themselves, even to the approbation of their own hearts, though perhaps

haps they are not destitute of regard ; but a strong affection is requisite to make the generality of people prefer the ease of others to their own convenience. Mr. and Mrs. Maningham, however, visited such of their relations as had taken any notice of them in their distress, who all approved their undertaking, and were lavish of good wishes for their success ; a bounty which neither impoverishes the giver, nor enriches the receiver. Some, indeed, added small presents to their good wishes, while the richer sort could scarcely forgive Mr. Ellison a generosity that bore a kind of reproach to them, and envied him an action which they had not the virtue to perform, though it was so much more incumbent upon them. But if they reproached themselves, Mr. Maningham did not join with their consciences ; he had that true generosity of mind, which leads the possessor to do every good to others, but to expect little from them. For we much mistake when we imagine
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that those who are the readiest to confer benefits, are likewise the most inclined to expect them; the same generosity which disposes them to serve others, suggests excuses for the less liberal, and by making them think lightly of their own rights, and indulgently of other peoples failings, their expectations are small; and when those are disappointed, resentment does not aggravate the injury.

Mr. Ellifon had desired Mr. Maningham to take over one or two assistants with him, as he little doubted but he would soon have more pupils than he could properly attend, and engaged to pay them the salaries he should agree upon, till he found himself able to do it; and these were not to be very small, as it could not be expected that persons properly qualified would hazard their health, and sacrifice many satisfactions by changing their climate and country without a valuable consideration. As this article

was

was involving his benefactor in still greater expence, Mr. Maningham would take but one assistant ; saying, it would be time enough to send for another, when he was himself able to pay his stipend ; and he was so fortunate as to meet with a very proper person to share the trust he was preparing to take upon him.

Mr. Ellison endeavoured to alleviate his impatience to visit Mrs. Tunstall by a redoubled attention to all the objects of his benevolence, finding that nothing so well enabled him to abstain from the gratification of his own inclinations as relieving the distresses of others ; for while he could dispense happiness, or even ease, no private mortification could afflict him : but though he lessened the sense of this sacrifice to decorum, he could not extinguish it ; the term he had prescribed himself to abstain from seeing the object of his constant affection appeared tedious to him ; and he would have been apt to join in the fre-

quent wish of more common lovers for the power of annihilating time, had he considered its uses only in regard to himself; but in the light he saw it, he durst not wish it to pass more swiftly, except he could have more quickly filled it with such actions as would prove he had not squandered it; but with a joy that excluded his usual reflections at the completing any particular period, (reflections on the method he had employed it, and how improved it for the best uses for which it was given) he saw the half year expire; and desired Mr. Allin to accompany him in his first visit to Mrs. Tunstall.

He had judged right in taking a companion; for the agitation of his spirits at seeing the woman he so tenderly loved, and seeing her, if possible, more beautiful than ever, was so strong, that lost in the pleasure of gazing at her, he was for a long time incapable of conversing. The mournful garb of her and her children gave

gave them an appearance of distress, which made him behold them with additional tenderness; and an air of melancholy that her endeavours could not conceal, for as she had been truly afflicted, she had felt no desire of giving any outward signs of it, touched him extremely. A dead rival is no formidable object to the tenderest lover. Mr. Ellison was rather pleased to see that Mrs. Tunstall was not insensible to the loss of a man, whom she had once loved to excess, though his conduct had rendered him unworthy of her. He did not think the affections of a heart he wished to gain could be too tender.

Mrs. Tunstall was less embarrassed; she had reason to believe Mr. Ellison did not see her with indifference; the care with which he had so long avoided her sufficiently proved it; but his sensibility gave her no pain, as she felt for him the most perfect esteem and gratitude, and thereby she thought was acquitted towards him;

and had no cause to reproach herself for not making a sufficient return to his sentiments. She did not imagine, whatever remaining partiality he might have for her, that he could entertain the least design of renewing his addresses to a woman, who, by a refusal of his hand, had shewn she did not deserve it, and one too who was now encumbered with children; and, she supposed, much altered, by the years of care and vexation which she had passed since he had seen her. Prepossessed with this opinion, her mind was wholly at liberty, and she received him with the regard due to his virtues, and the gratitude she felt for the man, to whom she owed all that she and her children could call their own; but at the same time, with the ease of one who foresaw no consequences from a visit that in civility was her due, and which she hoped would be the first step towards a sincere friendship between them; so far she imagined the share she still possessed of his regard might operate with him; and her heart was entirely

tirely ready to perform its part in that kind of attachment.

The easy frankness of her behaviour conquered Mr. Ellison's constraint before the end of his visit; he saw she had no views, nor suspected him of any; and pleased that his sentiments were unknown, he followed her example, and fell into easy and friendly conversation. But as he was reduced to conceal his tenderness for the mother, he made himself what amends he could by caressing the children; whose beauty recommended them to his notice, and could not escape it, as they bore a very strong resemblance to Mrs. Tunstall.

Mr. Ellison frequently repeated his visits, and found all his care was necessary to avoid suffering his thoughts to be too much engaged by this lovely woman. The only bounds he wished to prescribe to his affection were such as would prevent its interfering with his duties; had

the joy he received from her company, or the pleasure he felt in thinking of her, and in indulging his imagination in fancied scenes of future happiness, delayed the performance of one benevolent action, he would have thought he no longer deserved her. He did not suffer the critical situation his heart was then in to prevent his yearly benevolent excursion, nor to make him negligent in his enquiry into the merits and wants of the various prisoners who were candidates for his bounty; on the contrary, the delicacy of his virtue, making him fear the desire of returning into her neighbourhood might, imperceptibly to himself, have some influence, he gave rather more than common care to the due execution of his undertaking, and would not suffer himself to make all the dispatch he might easily have done.

C H A P. III.

THE preference Mr. Ellison often gave his duties, to the pleasures arising from Mrs. Tunstall's society, continued her in the opinion of his having no view beyond the enjoyment of her friendship; till the expiration of the first year of her widowhood, during which he had condemned himself to absolute silence concerning the situation of his heart; but having given so much time to worldly forms, he was determined no longer to delay what was due to himself, after having fulfilled all that decorum could possibly exact; he, therefore, declared frankly to her, how little alteration time had made in his affection, and intreated she would give him leave to hope, that she would listen to his addresses with more complacency than when he first made them.

Mrs. Tunstall was somewhat surprized at Mr. Ellison's constancy, and not a little

puzzled in what manner to answer him; but as he insisted on a reply, she stammered out some expressions of the honour he did her, the greatness of the advantages he thus offered her, and her high sense of the obligations she lay under, which must incline her to wish to comply with any request of his.

This sort of cold reception was ill-suited to the ardor of Mr. Ellison's passion; he therefore begged that politeness, gratitude, and above all, interest, might be out of the question. He had too good an opinion of her to believe she would marry for sordid views, and therefore trusted he had nothing of that kind to fear, but must likewise beseech her not to suffer gratitude (if she apprehended she owed any to him, which he could by no means allow) to make her sacrifice herself to his wishes; for though it was an amiable virtue, yet his heart was too delicate, or too capricious, to be contented with receiving it in return for his warmest affections; and
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he should be less unhappy without her, than if she gave him her hand in contradiction to her inclination.

I am persuaded most women must pity Mrs. Tunstall; it is rather cruel for a man to insist on a woman's speaking plain in such a case; allowing nothing to prudery and custom, which have ordained that a little dissimulation is a female duty, and one of the first rules in the science of decorum. Happily men are seldom so humble, as not to attribute to inclination the smallest sign of compliance, from whatever motive it may arise; but Mr. Ellison was deficient in vanity; what can be said of few, he saw the possibility of not being beloved; and he trembled lest he should owe to his fortune, what he so ardently longed to have yielded to his tender affection.

Mrs. Tunstall's situation was rendered the more perplexing, by being really ignorant of the state of her own heart. She

had never asked herself whether she felt more for him than esteem and gratitude, because she never expected to have the question put to her; and her heart had not been such a babbler, as to tell her unasked. But as he had given her time to recover the confusion into which surprize had thrown her, she made him an answer, which I am perswaded has been often made to others, but perhaps seldom with equal sincerity; that not having yet laid aside her widow's habit, she had not expected to be addressed; the possibility of it had not even entered her thoughts, too much engrossed by other subjects; therefore she was totally unprepared to give him a direct answer. She had considered him but as a most amiable and worthy friend, and knew not whether she could with pleasure consent to be united to him by a tenderer tie; however, she could safely promise all his delicacy required, not to marry him except he became the free, disinterested choice of her heart.

Mr.

Mr. Ellison had no sooner received this assurance, than he repented his request; he now began to think that if she married him on no other principle than esteem and gratitude, the tendernefs of his passion could scarcely fail of exciting affection in the breast of a virtuous woman, and therefore the danger he had apprehended was not great; whereas, by this excess of delicacy, which rendered him as it were jealous of her virtues, he might lose the possession of the woman on whom his happiness now more than ever depended; and had he not thought he discovered in Mrs. Tunstall's countenance, something that gave him room to hope he should not wait in vain, he had scarcely forborn to intreat her to deny what he had asked, and permit him to endeavour to engraft love on esteem, after marriage had rendered it her duty to assist him in securing her affections.

The poor man's apprehensions were in reality very groundless. Mrs. Tunstall

was not quite so indifferent as she imagined. Love seldom rises to a blaze, till it is fanned with hope; she firmly believed Mr. Ellison would never think of renewing his addresses to one who had preferred a man so much less deserving; and would have thought ill of herself if, so soon after the death of her husband, she could conceive a tender prepossession in favour of any other. As her mind was thus circumstanced, it had been for her ease, not to examine into the nature of her sentiments, and she was not ready to suspect herself of what she would have considered as a very blameable weakness. No one could deny esteem to Mr. Ellison; gratitude was due to him from her; these sentiments she approved, and therefore avowed them; any more tender she would have blushed at, and therefore concealed them from herself. But when by the declaration of his passion, all constraint being laid aside, the conversations between them took a more tender turn, his assiduities became doubly engaging, and made impressions

pressions on her heart, which she excused, as justly due to so constant and generous an affection; and she perceived that her sentiments exceeded those which are inspired by sober friendship, and rational gratitude: but fear lest he should suppose her actuated by interested motives, of which he had expressed some apprehensions, induced her to conceal her sensibility longer than she would otherwise have done, from a man whose long and painful attachment well deserved to be rewarded with all the pleasure he could receive from mutual affection. But the motive must be very powerful indeed, that can enable a woman, naturally sincere, to hide for any great length of time, the true state of her heart, from one who is so tenderly anxious to discover it. Mr. Ellison perceived, with inexpressible joy, that he was really beloved, and was so elated with his happiness, that he now fancied himself greatly rewarded for all he had suffered during the whole course of his

his passion. Present joy effaces much past pain from our remembrance, as indeed it ought, for present sorrow will sometimes make us forget the pleasures of many prosperous years; immediate sensations are too lively to suffer the past to recur with any great degree of strength. Mr. Ellison at this time found it so, yet he could not think his bliss complete, till the gift of her hand followed that of her heart; but though solicited by him in the tenderest and most passionate terms, and induced by the love which filled her own breast to consent to a perfect union, she could not be persuaded to marry him till a longer term of widowhood was expired. Her delicacy had always led her to dislike second marriages; to love twice, or to marry where a woman does not love, had appeared to her inconsistent with true delicacy; and though she was now obliged either to acknowledge she had refined too much, or to be the object of her own censure, yet she was desirous of fulfilling
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all that the forms of the world could require of her, and therefore desired permission to compleat the second year of her widowhood before she entered into another engagement. This request was distressing to her lover, and by no means agreeable to her father, who thought such nice, unnecessary delays were trifling, compared with the advantages fortune offered her; and being grown cautious with age, and parcimonious by nature, he feared some accident might deprive her of a blessing she was too slow in accepting. Thus disposed, they united their forces; Mr. Ellison urged how long he had loved, and how much he had suffered; and they jointly represented that by having forborne all acquaintance with her from the time she married, and for the first half year of her widowhood, he had made such a sacrifice to decency, as must entirely secure her from any malicious imputations, notwithstanding the continuance of his passion must now be well known to the world. But all their arguments might have proved

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ed unavailing, if Mr. Allin had not, contrary to Mr. Ellifon's exprefs desire, jestingly, told his daughter, that if she did not lay aside her foolish scruples, he would proclaim to the whole neighbourhood that she was guilty of a much greater indecorum than a far earlier marriage, as she was in great measure kept by Mr. Ellifon.

Mrs. Tunstall was astonished at the terms her father used, but thought he referred to the fortune Mr. Ellifon had given her on her nuptials, which indeed made the whole of what she possessed; till he acquainted her that what since the decline of the Doctor's business she had imagined she received from his bounty, was indeed the gift of her generous lover. Mr. Ellifon was distressed at this discovery, which he feared might be humiliating to Mrs. Tunstall; but after she had recovered her surprize, 'I see, Sir,' said she to him, 'that Providence has de-
'creed

' creed I should owe every blessing to
 ' your generosity ; what return can I make
 ' to such obligations ! accept my thanks ;
 ' accept me ; most amiable of men ! such
 ' goodness is irresistible ; henceforward
 ' command my will, for by your's it must
 ' ever be regulated ; I can no longer re-
 ' sist any inclination of your's ; on the
 ' contrary, find my affection for you grow
 ' so entire, that I must wish to have it
 ' made my duty to love you with a warm
 ' and undivided heart.'

The frown Mr. Allin had raised on Mr.
 Ellison's brow, was at once dissipated ;
 the consequences of what he had thought
 an indiscretion in that gentleman were so
 pleasing, that his heart could harbour no
 sensation but joy, which was so strong-
 ly expressed by the manner wherein he
 received this consent, that Mrs. Tun-
 stall reproached herself for having delay-
 ed a happiness, it was in her power to
 have sooner given him. As all the par-
 ties

ties were so well agreed, we may believe the day that was to compleat their bliss was fixed before they parted, and that at only a fortnight's distance, which was just half a year short of the term she had been desirous of compleating, before she entered into a second engagement.

Mr. Ellison felt himself the happiest of mankind ; a few days only stood between him and the utmost height of worldly felicity ; and those were rendered so delightful by an anticipating imagination, and the tender intercourse between two persons passionately in love, and so near possessing each other, that his impatience to see them expired was scarcely excusable. He now experienced the danger of extreme joy ; hitherto benevolence had always possessed the first place in his thoughts, but at this period he was too much intoxicated with his own happiness, to give his usual attention to the happiness of others ; he perceived this change,
but

but hoped his mind would recover its former tone when the turbulence of joy was abated by certainty and possession, and his spirits naturally become composed by the removal of all anxiety. Indeed every thing concurred to make him happy; for though at this time every pleasure appeared small in comparison to what he felt in the expectation of his approaching union with Mrs. Tunstall, yet he did not receive with insensibility the thanks of his sister-in-law, for the valuable present he had sent her in Miss Almon, whose friendship gave her extreme satisfaction, and whose instructions she doubted not would be of great use both to her and her children; for notwithstanding the difference in their ages, she said, they should equally be Miss Almon's scholars, as her superiority of years did not prevent either her desire, or want of improvement. The accounts from Mr. Maningham were not less agreeable, as he informed him, that before he had been three months in Jamaica,

maica, he had a sufficient number of scholars to have contented him, but that his school was still increasing. He likewise told Mr. Ellison that the climate agreed perfectly with him, and also with his mother, since she was become accustomed to it; for on her first arrival she was seized with a fever, but since she recovered that, had been very well, and seemed to take pleasure in the care of her young boarders. He also desired another assistant might be sent him as soon as possible, as he had too many scholars for two persons to instruct sufficiently.

Thus every circumstance seemed to concur to make Mr. Ellison compleatly happy; when three days before that fixed on for his nuptials he received a letter from Mrs. Blackburn, informing him, ' That her husband was in the hands of the ' sheriff's officers, and if he did not take ' compassion upon them, he must be immediately removed to prison, as they

' were

' were not able to discharge the debt, and
 ' the creditor refused to take Mr. Black-
 ' burn's bond, knowing his whole fortune
 ' was mortgaged. She beseeched Mr. Ellison
 ' in very affecting terms to relieve them
 ' in this distress, and that with all speed,
 ' proposing to make over part of their in-
 ' come to pay him for what he must ad-
 ' vance, without which, she said, she could
 ' by no means think of applying to him
 ' in such a case, after the continual obli-
 ' gations he conferred on them.'

Fewer entreaties would have sufficed to
 bring Mr. Ellison to their relief. As for
 her proposal of reimbursing him, he was
 determined not to listen to it, though he
 did not design to pay the debt out of his
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to

to his own use. He had lent his equipage to Mrs. Tunstall, who wanted to make some purchases at the adjacent town; Sir William Ellifson was waiting with impatience while his was getting ready to carry him an airing: Mr. Ellifson would not disappoint the poor man of any thing wherein he purposed pleasure, and as his own horse was lame, ordered one he had just bought for his servant, to be saddled for himself, and set out in all haste for Mr. Blackburn's; but he had not gone three miles, when his horse threw him. He was at first entirely stunned by the fall; but pain in a short time brought him to himself, and convinced him that his thigh was broke. His servant sent off a messenger to a surgeon to meet him at his own house, and with great difficulty got him home.

The surgeon happily was there before him, and the bone was set as soon as possible; but the pain, though extreme, could
not

not fix his thoughts entirely on himself; his mistress and his friend were sure of finding the first place in them; and desirous of lessening the uneasiness of both, he sent Mr. Green to Mrs. Blackburn, with full power of engaging to discharge Mr. Blackburn's debt, as soon as he should become acquainted with the sum, which she had omitted mentioning in her letter, desiring him to take care that gentleman was not in the mean time carried to prison. He then dispatched his house-keeper to acquaint Mrs. Tunstall with the misfortune that had befallen him, the most painful consequence of which was the disappointment of his hopes, when felicity seemed so near him; but he flattered himself it would not occasion a long delay; and that in the interim she would bless him with her presence.

Mrs. Tunstall was shocked to the greatest degree at this melancholy news; but when a shower of tears had given some relief

relief to her spirits, she declared her desire of attending Mr. Ellifon directly, and accordingly went back with the house-keeper.

C H A P. IV.

MRS. Tunstall found Mr. Ellifon even worse than she expected, his pain and fever having encreased after the house-keeper set out ; but the sight of his destined bride made him for a time insensible to his sufferings, and he only lamented the mortifying change in his immediate prospects ; and that after having so long waited for his happiness, he should be exposed to still farther delays, and that too when he had almost reached the very moment of possession. The postponing of their marriage appeared to Mrs. Tunstall as a small part of the misfortune ; the pain he endured, and the danger she feared from the fever she apprehended it had brought upon him, were to her so much more afflicting, that she had no
grief

grief to spare for lesser evils ; nor could find any reason to lament the delay which sat so heavy on their spirits, except their more speedy marriage might have prevented this unfortunate accident. Her having had the chariot gave her much greater concern, as it seemed in great measure the occasion of what had befallen him ; but he would not suffer her to believe he should have made use of it, had it been at home.

Though in some past transactions Mrs. Tunstall may have appeared a slave to the most punctilious decorum, yet she was above all such frivolous niceties where she had any humane and important cause to break through them, and determined that want of the marriage ceremony should not prevent her attendance on him, during his confinement. She had once acted this part from gratitude ; and trusted she might now without censure be allowed to perform it through affection. Her

tender attentions greatly alleviated Mr. Ellison's pains, but could not effect his cure; the third day after the fracture, a mortification began, which gave the surgeons the most alarming apprehensions.

Mr. Ellison always kept his affairs in exact order, and settled his various accounts, and all his trusts, in as regular a manner as possible, with a view of preventing disputes and difficulties, in case he should not either have time or power to regulate them in his last moments, when, even whatever leisure might be afforded him, he should wish to have his mind disengaged from worldly concerns. But he now found, so complicated as his business was, there was no possibility of being freed from that care, especially in his present situation, which had relieved him from all anxiety on Mrs. Tunstall's account, imagining a few days would secure her an ample fortune. He saw the danger which threatened his life; the sur-

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geons scarcely durst attempt to conceal it from him ; and the distress impressed on the countenances of all who approached him sufficiently declared their fears.

Death could certainly never have taken him at a more unwelcome season. He was in full possession of every real good this world affords ; no one circumstance was wanting to make life agreeable ; he was on the moment of receiving the reward of all the uneasiness he had suffered from his love ; and his hopes and expectations raised to their utmost height by the joy which seemed to await him in his approaching nuptials. His affections too were in full strength, for no consuming sickness, no decays incident to age, had weakened his passions, or weaned his affections ; far different from those who,

*Taught half by reason, half by meer decay,
To welcome death and calmly pass away :*

He was taken in the full flow of his joys, the very summit of his happiness; the woman he idolized, the friends he loved, the dependants he valued and protected, all weeping round him, and afflicting with their sorrow a heart which must so sensibly feel the pain of leaving them. But melancholy as his situation will be allowed, no dejection appeared in his countenance. As soon as he apprehended his life was in danger, he considered of the best method of preventing others from suffering by his death. He obliged his executors to follow the plan he had laid down for Sir William's household, and put it out of their power to retrench any expence that was conducive to his pleasure. He charged on his fortune the support of all the charities and benevolences he had established, till the objects of his bounty should be removed into a world where all their wants would be better supplied. He discharged Mr. Blackburn's debt, and by his will distributed all he had saved

saved amongst the younger children. He bequeathed ten thousand pounds to Mrs. Tunstall ; and as his son's fortune could not fail of being great, since Sir William's estate would come to him, he charged it with annuities for all his dependants ; he had not a servant to whom he did not leave some token of his bounty ; and not confining his thoughts to England, obliged his son to leave his Jamaica estate in the hands of his steward as long as he should live ; providing for all the negroes that should remain on the plantation at the time of his steward's death.

When he had settled his affairs in such a manner that no one could suffer except in the interior of their hearts by his decease, and learnt that though he might linger on for a day or two, there was no hope of his recovery, as all the surgeons had tried failed of the expected success, he dedicated the rest of his time to fervent ad-

dress'd to his Maker, and to endeavours of being useful to those about him.

As for the first, he found it a pleasing task. Though his services had been imperfect, yet he knew them sincere ; his conscience laboured under no load of sin, though it could not proclaim him innocent. He was sensible he had often offended, yet never deliberately continued in any evil. He knew he stood in need of pardon, but Faith told him where to apply for it ; and while he lamented that he had not more diligently laboured to fulfill the will of his Creator, Hope assured him that Mercy was at hand, that sincerity would be accepted in the place of perfection, and dispell'd every rising fear. He took leave of all his friends and dependants ; and believing that what he said at such a time would have double weight, he gave them severally the advice most needful for them, and exhorted them to a constant and fervent performance of the duties.

ties of religion, saying every thing that he imagined might raise their love to him who had purchased a right to it at so great a price. Much of his exhortations must have been lost through the grief of those to whom they were addressed, which frequently interrupted him in his discourse; for in the midst of all this distress, he alone seemed calm in spirits, and blessed with a composure, which neither an unwillingness to relinquish life, nor the pain he suffered, could interrupt.

His hardest trial was yet to come, the taking leave of his son and mistress. For the former he felt a thousand fears, lest his unguided youth might be led into some of the many errors to which that season of life is prone; and he did not more grieve than fear to leave him. He recapitulated the substance of all the instructions he had for so many years been inculcating, and beseeched him with tears, and the tenderest caresses, to imprint them

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deeply on his heart. The young Granthams were not omitted in this last exertion of his benevolence; he represented to them the duties of the station they would one day fill in this world, and still more strongly what was requisite to their happy state in the next. But his severest task was taking leave of Mrs. Tunstall, who approached his bed more dead than alive. In her presence life appeared to him cloathed in all its charms; these were even heightened beyond reality by the deceitful varnish of passion; and to think that the hand which was so soon to have been united to his, and thereby to have raised him to the summit of earthly happiness, must on the contrary now close his eyes, and perform the last direful office of friendship, was almost too much for his fortitude; but when he was melting into sorrow, and lamenting the approaching separation from the idol of his soul, Religion (long accustomed to recur to his mind on every occasion) came to his

his aid, he checked the rising passion, acknowledged his own blindness, and the all-perfect wisdom of him in whose hand is life and death; and convinced his dispensations are always both wise and merciful, submitted with true resignation, and exhorted the beloved mourner to patience and fortitude. He bade her 'not grieve for him, since he 'trusted he was going to the only place 'where he could find a happiness superior 'to what he should have enjoyed in her 'society.' Reminded her 'how soon they 'should meet again, never more to part;' beseeching her, 'to think of him only as 'gone a journey, where she in a few years 'would follow him.' Represented the sin of too much sorrowing, 'since it was our 'duty to submit patiently to every decree 'of providence, and not to repine when 'our hopes are disappointed by him who 'knows best whether they ought to be 'gratified, and never afflicts his children 'but for their benefit.' He observed to

her, 'how many misfortunes might have attended their wished-for union; how happy it might be for him to be taken away at the time most dangerous to his virtue, as it was too possible, had he lived, his extreme fondness for her might have withdrawn his affections from him who was best entitled to them; and the intoxication of passion have led him to omit the duties of a christian.' He then told her 'he had left her and Mr. Green executors of his will, in full confidence, that if he had omitted any thing, they would act, not by the letter of the will, but by what they knew of his inclination, and take care that every thing he had established was carried on with the same regularity and propriety as during his life; and that no indigent person should feel one comfort diminished by his death.'

Mrs. Tunstall had no power to answer, but with her tears, which flowed plentifully

fully over the hand she pressed between hers, while kneeling by his bed-side. She had great occasion for all his exhortations to patience, but was not in the best state of mind for receiving them. After the first gust of sorrow is over, resignation may take place, despair sinks us into a sort of calm; but while misery is depending, anxiety will not suffer us to exert our fortitude, nor to listen to the calls of duty. She endeavoured, to the utmost of her power, to conceal the anguish of her mind; but with all the resolution she assumed she could perform it only in part, and so much of her affliction appeared as grew too affecting for Mr. Ellison; his strength both of mind and body began to fail, and fearing lest the grief of parting with the object of his tenderest affections might disturb the tranquillity of his mind in his last moments, he desired her to leave him, while he endeavoured to get a little sleep. She, who wished to give a

freer vent to her sorrows, obeyed him without reluctance, and he in reality fell into a sleep, which continued for some hours.

At night, when the surgeons examined his leg, they found the mortification, to their surprize, had not advanced, which gave them room to hope there was still a possibility that the medicines given had at last taken effect; but the chance was so very small, they were afraid of speaking the hope that might be gathered from their countenances. The next day the symptoms appeared still a little more favourable, and Mrs. Tunstall began to flatter herself that she might still be happy; but Mr. Ellison gave little credit to this change, fearing lest hope might deprive him of the resignation, which, perhaps, he in part owed to despair. However, in a few days, beyond all expectation, he was declared out of danger; and he now found, that the life he could so contentedly have parted with, was still extremely

extremely dear to him. But had it indeed lost its charms, it must have obtained new ones from the joy that was diffused over the whole neighbourhood. Mrs. Tunstall's was almost too much for her frame to support; that of his friends and dependents, though less extreme, was equally sincere, and he had reason to believe was perfectly disinterested, as he had, to alleviate their grief on his expected death, informed them, that he had taken care their circumstances should not suffer by his decease. But as this had increased their gratitude and affection, it made their joy on the appearances of his recovery still the greater. The pain Mr. Ellison had endured, seemed now only a refinement on his pleasure, so entire was the gratification he received from such infallible marks of attachment. To obtain love had never been the motive for his bounty; he had, as much as possible, divested himself of all desire or hope of gaining either affection or praise from the benevolence which he shewed
indiscri-

indiscriminately to all who came within his observation, because he wished to preserve the motive of his actions more pure, and free from all danger of disappointment; but the real pleasure of being beloved must be greater or less in proportion to the benevolence of the mind; for that which arises from vanity is transient and uncertain; he therefore could not but feel the most refined satisfaction from the tender attachment of so many people; was thankful to the Almighty for having added that pleasure to the many blessings he had bestowed on him; prayed for a sufficient length of life to recompense those poor people for the gratification they had given him, and that he might be enabled to spend the remainder of his life in the service of him who had so unexpectedly prolonged it.

Mr. Ellison's recovery, though slow, was rendered very delightful, by the joy expressed in the countenance of every person

son that approached him. Mrs. Tunstall was ever rejoicing over his restored life, or on her knees giving thanks for so great a blessing. Mr. Ellison, when he expected almost immediate death, had ordered her children to be sent for, as the best resource her afflicted mind could have, and the most probable means of administering consolation when the fatal hour of separation from him should arrive. Happily this care had proved unnecessary, but their being in the family enabled Mrs. Tunstall to continue in his house with less inconvenience; and she never left it till Mr. Ellison was sufficiently recovered for them to confirm at church the union of their hearts, which love had before completed; an union which every succeeding day rendered more delightful, as a fuller knowledge of each others virtues, by encreasing their esteem and rational affection, more than compensated for some abatement of passion which must unavoidably be the consequence of possession, and
that

that certainty of each other's affections which banishes all the fears and anxieties that fan the fire of love and increase the passion by vicissitude, mingling pains with its pleasures.

C H A P. V.

MR. Ellison had now no wish ungratified. Mrs. Ellison returned his affection in the tenderest manner, and compleated his happiness by entering into all his views, and assisting him in every work of humanity, wherein her heart was as deeply engaged as his. Mrs. Ellison, during her widowhood, had dedicated her time and her talents to her children; but by her second marriage she had given to another a just title to share in both: a partnership which, however, was highly advantageous to her scantily provided-for offspring; but both she and Mr. Ellison thought it just to make them the best amends in their power for the interruption

now

now given to her careful and judicious attentions; he therefore applied to his cousin, Mrs. Maynard, to send a person qualified to instruct them; being, with his wife, of opinion, that children could never be so properly placed as under the eye of a mother, who was capable of guiding, and willing to give all possible attention to them. They were indeed only infants, but their parents thought too early care could not be taken to prevent the acquiring bad habits, and to give them such as might best fit them for future improvement. Mrs. Ellison could not, without depriving her husband of too much of her company, be always with them, and did not think it proper to trust them in her absence with common servants, whose low education must give rise to various errors, narrow views, and absurd prejudices, which they never fail instilling into the minds of children, susceptible of every impression.

Mr.

Mr. Ellifon had not been married quite a year when his wife produced him a fine boy, who made an addition to their happiness, the measure of which seemed before to be full. In a short time after another family felt perhaps equal joy from a very different event, as death gave rise to it. Mr. Grantham received advice that the duke of ——— had paid the last debt to nature, whereby he came into possession of the title and entailed estate. What was unsettled the duke had spent, beside the income of great appointments. Mr. Grantham received this news like a rational, honest man. He had always thought with pleasure of the succession, as he had no acquaintance with the possessor, had been entirely neglected by him, and could have no esteem for his character. But he felt himself very unequal to the rank he now bore : the estate he was sensible would extricate him from all difficulties, and he knew himself sufficiently qualified to enjoy the comforts of affluence;

ence; but he looked upon the title as a burden which would sit ungracefully upon him, and was more grateful than ever to Mr. Ellison for having educated his children in a manner that would make them become their rank.

Mrs. Grantham exceeded him as much in joy as she fell short of him in diffidence. The title gave her at least as much pleasure as the estate, and she had no doubt but she should make an excellent dutchess. Her brain was scarcely proof against the delight she took in forming schemes of grandeur. It was with no small difficulty Mr. Ellison prevailed with her to delay making any material alteration in her way of life, till the rents of the estate enabled her to do it with convenience; representing that ‘as the entail could not be cut off till her eldest son became of age, if Mr. Grantham died before that period, he could leave nothing to her or her younger children, except

‘except what he should have saved; there-
‘fore of all people they ought to avoid
‘setting out in debt.’ He observed to
her, that ‘there was far greater dignity
‘in seeming indifferent to grandeur, than
‘in enjoying it; and that by not being
‘in haste to appear in figure, they would
‘assume it with less envy, and be thought
‘to become it better.’ But Mrs. Gran-
tham had little taste for the dignity of ab-
staining from the enjoyment of splendor;
and all Mr. Ellifon’s refined reasonings
would have proved unavailing, had he
not strengthened them by representing
‘how lamentable a condition a dowager-
‘dutchess would be in, whose income did
‘not exceed fifty pounds a year.’ The
notion of being a titled beggar had its ef-
fect, and she consented to what prudence
had before disposed her husband.

Mr. Ellifon undertook to accompany
his grace in the necessary inspection of
his estate; and to their great mortifica-
tion

tion they found it in very bad condition : the farm-houses tumbling down, the fences out of repair, the mansion-house in a most ruinous state, and the furniture in tatters ; the late possessor having, through extravagance, been always too needy to afford the necessary repairs. The steward's accounts were not in much better order ; his late master never took the trouble to inspect them, by which means he had raised a considerable fortune, while his master's had gone to ruin.

To a man who had already passed the meridian of life, this afforded a very disagreeable prospect, as he saw it must be long before he could enjoy the clear produce of his estate ; which would not, at the utmost, amount to seven thousand pounds a year ; a very moderate income for a man of his rank. The first necessary step was to change his steward, but that could not be done immediately, as he had contrived to render his accounts very intricate ;

tricate ; he was, however, ordered to make them up in the best manner he could, and then to bring them to the Duke ; who after having minuted down the repairs most immediately requisite, returned home. No rents were likely to come in for near a quarter of a year, but Mr. Ellifson prevailed with him to determine to stay in his old habitation till that time, and to fix a resolution to confine his expences within three thousand pounds a year, till his estate and house were thoroughly repaired, and fortunes saved for his younger children.

In this advice Mr. Ellifson considered equally the advantage of the whole family. By getting the Duke to fix his expences at 3000 l. yearly, he hoped it would at least come within four thousand ; well knowing that people generally exceed the sum they allot themselves ; and that, he thought, was as much as he could spend with a tolerable grace ; it would allow a decent portion of figure, hospitality, and be-

benevolence ; and any thing beyond must sit awkwardly on people so unaccustomed to high life, as nothing exposes a low education like an aim at splendor, which a person so unqualified neither knows how to order, nor to conduct. So great a change of situation, likewise, is apt to be hurtful to the mind, as it too often gives rise to such a degree of pride and vanity as renders the possessor both unhappy and ridiculous ; this is much increased by pomp and shew ; and he hoped if he could restrain them in that particular, it might prevent the inordinate growth of those vices. Having so long had the children under his care, he loved them with almost a paternal affection ; and was solicitous to save the eldest from that most dangerous situation, high birth with an incumbered fortune. Sensible that the general corruption of this country, arises from the necessitous state of too many of the individuals, who endeavour to supply their private wants by prostitution of conscience and honour, he wished the young

Mar-

Marquis to inherit an unmortgaged estate; for though he knew his heart to be excellent, his principles strictly virtuous, and his understanding both solid and brilliant, yet the pernicious consequences of necessitous circumstances are so evident, that he almost feared no integrity could stand the trial, and therefore was anxious to remove from him so dangerous a temptation. Though he was equally fond of the younger children, yet this was his chief care; he had no doubt of the Marquis's providing properly for them, but as he could not do it but by loading his estate with very heavy incumbrances, the fears I have mentioned, made him desirous to have their fortunes supplied by their father's œconomy.

Mrs. Ellison had found sufficient employment during the absence of the gentlemen, in endeavouring to fortify the new dutchess's mind against the dangers arising from her late acquired dignity. She represented to her, that ' her situation
' had

' had some disagreeable consequences ;
 ' that it would expose her to the envy of
 ' her inferiors, who would scrutinize her
 ' actions with malice, and censure them
 ' without mercy : while her equals would
 ' be inclined to despise her, and turn every
 ' little, unavoidable error, into ridicule.
 ' That the only method to save herself
 ' from the malice of the one, and the
 ' over-bearing pride of the other, was to
 ' support this change with moderation
 ' and humility : To shew that as she had
 ' always reason to expect this exaltation,
 ' so she was not puffed up by it ; and as
 ' she had, in consideration of her hus-
 ' band's birth and expectations, been
 ' treated on equal terms by persons far
 ' superior to her in fortune, so now she
 ' ought to let them see that she was as
 ' conscious of what she had been, as they
 ' were before of what she might expect
 ' to be ; for as they had not presumed on
 ' their superiority, neither ought she on
 ' hers ; but behave to them, not with that

‘condescending civility, which is in reality
‘an insult, but with the same ease and
‘freedom she had ever done. She warned
‘her against affecting an air of dignity
‘which could never fit well upon her;
‘and as she could not be a fine lady,
‘to content herself with appearing in a
‘better character, that of a sensible and
‘a good woman; if then any faults were
‘found in her behaviour, they would be
‘charged on the injustice of fortune, which
‘had so long left her in low circum-
‘stances.’

Mrs. Ellifson had the satisfaction of finding the duchess very docile, after the violence of her first joy was over. As she knew her neighbours would all make her visits of congratulation, she desired her good friend would be present, to assist her in doing the honours to so much company; and after they went away, would ask her how she acquitted herself; and suffer her to find fault with any part of her

her behaviour she disapproved, as well as to teach her how to rectify it; and Mrs. Ellison with great pleasure heard her conduct applauded, by people who had purposed in their visit to find some gratification for their envy, or some amusement for their ill-nature. She took care to acquaint her grace with their approbation, both as a reward, and an encouragement to persevere in the same behaviour.

Their moderation and prudence in not immediately assuming the figure to which their rank intitled them was much admired; and from the whole of their conduct, people were inclined to believe that the dignity of their minds was even superior to their rank. After the duke and Mr. Ellison returned from visiting his grace's estate, he and the duchess passed most of their time at Mr. Ellison's, as they could there be better accommodated than at home; and it seemed a middle state between their past and future way of life,

and fit a little to prepare them for so great a change in circumstances.

While they were with Mr. Ellison, Sir William was seized with a fever, which carried him off in a few days. Mr. Ellison succeeded to his estate and title, with the satisfactory reflexion of having made his deceased relation happier than ever man was, who had been afflicted with the like dreadful calamity.

Mr. Lyne died about a year before, but his worthy wife still remained, who Mr. or to speak properly, Sir George Ellison would not permit to be a sufferer by the cessation of a charge, wherein she had acquitted herself so admirably, as made him esteem himself greatly indebted to her. The young gentleman who had been about Sir William had the same title to his regard. Him he recommended to the duke of ——— to supply the place of his predecessor's steward; an office for which
this

this young man was particularly well qualified. He had long entertained a passion for Miss Lyne, who had not listened to him with insensibility; and by the recovery of her health, became a very pretty, as well as very amiable young woman. While Sir William lived, they suppressed all thoughts of uniting; but now those ties of duty were dissolved, they, without fear of meeting with any obstacle either from her mother or Sir George, who was always ready to gratify every virtuous inclination, declared their mutual affection; and met with even more than the success they hoped. Sir George Ellison engaged to give the bride a fortune; and presented them with as much of Sir William's furniture as sufficed to furnish their house. Mrs. Lyne's son he had already placed in a merchant's counting house; where his good behaviour promised he would one day make a fortune. Sir George then settled an hundred a year on Mrs. Lyne during her life; who finding herself made by his bounty so easy in

her circumstances, added 500*l.* to her daughter's fortune, out of what she had saved; and settled in a cottage near them, refusing an apartment in their house; for she said, that 'when a woman was
' married she ought to have no one's temper to study but her husband's; double
' subjection was too much; and yet, perhaps, it was impossible for a parent to
' cease from exacting the obedience which
' she had been accustomed to require, or
' for a daughter of so gentle a temper as
' her's, to forbear paying it, even if it
' was not demanded. She lived at so
' small a distance from them, that she
' should be always ready to give any assistance in her power, in case of sickness,
' or on any other occasion when she might
' be useful; could receive the like comfort from them, and enjoy the pleasure
' of their society; the happiness of which
' she could not doubt, being perfectly well
' acquainted with the amiable disposition
' of both.'

C H A P. VI.

SIR George Ellison made no great additions to the current expences of his family on this increase of fortune, except in the article of equipage. He removed into Sir William's house, as it was better, and more elegant than his own; and lent his to the duke of ———, whose seat was too much out of repair to be lived in; and had it been in better order, he could not prudently have inhabited it, as he must have been led into a larger scale of expence, than suited his situation, in a county where he was the superior person, and yet several private gentlemen therein had better fortunes than himself, the condition of their estates considered. By continuing in the neighbourhood where he had always lived, he was more esteemed, and better liked, for the moderate figure in which he appeared, as he did not affect a splendor that excited envy, and yet did not disgrace his rank. His

equipage and retinue were as genteel, though the latter, perhaps, not so numerous, as those of any man of his quality in the kingdom. His table was extremely handsome; and every article of domestic expence was agreeable to his rank; but it was all ordered with œconomy: in the number of their servants they were regulated by the uses they had for them; and not being burdened with unnecessary domestics, corrupted by idleness, and who for want of employment fall into riot and debauchery, their family was conducted with all the regularity and œconomy of inferior persons. Sir George and Lady Ellison had, at their desire, fixed their household, and settled the whole plan of their expences; for as they had hitherto possessed so little, they were but bad judges how far money would go; and their good friends thought themselves over-paid for their trouble, by the pleasure of seeing them live in so prudent and judicious a manner. They persuaded them not to pass

pass any part of their time in London; sensible, that although their merits rendered them respected in the country, even beyond what their titles might exact; yet, in London, where their worth could not be known, their want of knowledge of the world, and their deficiency in politeness, so little reconcilable to their rank, would frequently make them the objects of ridicule. Those who have specious manners, a good address, an easy assurance, and what we call the *favour vivre*, adopting the words of a foreign language, have all the qualifications requisite to render them acceptable in the gay world; but such as are deficient in these particulars, however replete with unadorned good sense, integrity, strict honour, and general benevolence, will make but an indifferent figure there; and are much more judicious, when they fix in a less crouded scene, where people have leisure and opportunity to observe their virtues, sobriety of understanding sufficient to feel their value, and to accept sterling merit

as an attonement for deficiency in politeness, and in the small, but pleasing talents for gay society. These, it must be allowed, by accompanying virtue give it a peculiar grace, and render that lovely which unpolished is but estimable ; and we cannot wonder, if the want of these advantages depreciate very worthy persons in the eyes of those who have not opportunity to penetrate deeply into their characters ; but it is a sufficient reason to deter such from exposing themselves unnecessarily to these superficial observers ; and the duke of —— saw this propriety in its true light ; while his lady acquiesced in his choice, and approved in her judgment, though perhaps her inclination rather prompted her to wish for a little better acquaintance with the amusements of the polite world.

The young marquis, their son, gave them reason to hope that he would be qualified for a greater latitude of election ;
having

having the pleasing talents requisite to recommend himself to the world, united with the virtues which grace retirement, and render public life useful. His disposition was truly noble. Generous, sincere, humane, and steady ; of an active and lively temper, calm and resolute, yet gentle and docile. He had great parts and a strong understanding ; polite and graceful in his manner, with true greatness of soul, but free from pride. Though he was not handsome, his countenance was engaging, and his person fine. Nor did the rest of that young family fall far short of him in perfections. Nature had dealt bountifully with them ; and Sir George Ellison, and their tutor, had carefully cultivated and improved their natural endowments, and endeavoured to give their minds such a turn, as might render them most useful to mankind ; sensible that their rank must bring them into public life. The change in their father's fortune made none in them, till they were of an

age to go to the university, to which they were accompanied by young Ellifon, and all committed to the care and guidance of the tutor who had so happily instructed their youth, and was both loved and revered by them.

I have already said, that Sir George had not been married a year before his lady brought him a son; the two succeeding years each enriched him by a daughter. It is not possible to imagine a scene of more perfect felicity on earth, than this family represented. The large addition to Sir George's fortune, greatly extended the sphere of his benevolence; no real distress reached his knowledge that was not relieved; and as his disposition was well known through great part of the kingdom, he received applications from all quarters; but he gave not indiscriminately; he considered all that was bestowed on the undeserving as a robbery of the more meritorious; and therefore enquired narrowly

rowly into every case laid before him. If this scrutiny, as was often the case, required much time, and the distress represented was very urgent, he would, it is true, send a little present assistance; rather chusing to hazard the misapplication of a small sum, than that innocent poverty should wait too long for relief. Those who came within the extent of his observation, had seldom occasion to notify their necessities, for his bounty supplied their wants almost as soon as they could feel them. A man whose income was insufficient to the maintenance of his children, and who had it not in his power to encrease it, if known to Sir George, never failed, without application, of receiving a half yearly present to enable him to answer unavoidable exigencies. Thus the poorer sort of clergy came in for no small share of his bounty; if he heard of a curate with a large family, (of which he frequently heard, as the number of them is so great) the poor man's difficulties were sure of being greatly

ly lightened ; for he felt particular compassion for men, sometimes gentlemen by birth, and generally so by education, who were reduced to live on a less income than a low mechanic, and yet to maintain some gentility of appearance, without which, among ill-judging people, (and what parish is not full of them ?) both he and his function would fall into contempt. Where he saw no good purposes likely to arise from gaining an influence over those he relieved, he sent his presents without any notification of the giver ; though his character was so well known, that he seldom hereby could preserve the secrecy he intended : but where he hoped to benefit the receiver as much by his advice as by his bounty, he forbore all attempts at privacy ; and this especially among the persons I have last mentioned as objects of his beneficence ; as he took much pains to persuade them, ‘ to relinquish
‘ all thoughts of laying claim to any gentility for their children, and contentedly

‘ to breed them up without any higher
‘ expectations or pretensions, than those
‘ of the neighbouring and middling farm-
‘ ers ; for the richer part of this class,’ he
observed, ‘ might look somewhat above
‘ them, being able to give a few hundred
‘ pounds to their children, which a coun-
‘ try curate could not hope.’ He exhort-
ed them indeed, ‘ to give their offspring
‘ such advantages as they had more pecu-
‘ liarly the power of bestowing, teaching
‘ them to read, write, and cast accounts
‘ well ; polishing their behaviour ; recti-
‘ fying their language ; and above all,
‘ instructing them thoroughly in religious
‘ and moral duties ; and to these,’ he said,
‘ their mothers might, in respect to the
‘ female part of their families, add such
‘ instructions in feminine business as would
‘ prove very useful qualifications ; all
‘ which,’ he urged, ‘ might be taught
‘ them without instilling those notions of
‘ gentility that so often render the descen-
‘ dants of the clergy the most distressed
‘ of

‘ of all people, and consequently particularly exposed to temptations from the ‘ vicious.’ This advice, of which I have succinctly mentioned only the heads, he softened in such a manner that it could not give pain, even though a little pride might lurk in the heart of those he addressed ; for he beheld with compassion the pride of people reduced to a situation below their birth, and thought that vice in none so excusable as in them who are naturally led to encourage some opinion of self-consequence, in order to make themselves a little amends for the undeserved indignities they meet with from others. But although he endeavoured to persuade the clergy to relinquish all views for their children above what a common farmer or small trader might entertain, yet he himself always gave them a preference in his assistances towards placing them out in life, if their merits were equal, to those of a lower class, especially when their parents were gentlemen by birth, thinking
such

such distinction then their due ; but yet, he esteemed the rights of merit so superior to those of birthright, that if he found one of the lowest class excell in virtue and talents, he preferred him to a less deserving man, however well descended ; and this not only as he thought such preference just, but because the youth who thus excelled was by his merits enabled to reap much greater benefit from his bounty, than one who had not the same powers of improving the advantages of his situation ; for, as I have before said, he was very careful in every action, to order it in such a manner as should produce the most good that was possible ; through which care it happened that his charities were far more beneficial than they would have been if performed by those whose liberal hands were not directed by minds equally attentive. If a lad's chief merit lay in industry, he dedicated him to occupations where only sobriety and application were necessary ; but placed those of more shining

ing talents in situations where they would be called forth, well knowing it to be as difficult to make a dull mind excel in refined arts, as to sink shining parts to the requisite attention to plodding business, an aim that almost ever ends in the disappointment of him who attempts it, and the ruin of the lads so injudiciously disposed of; and is no less to the detriment of society, as by a wrong application it loses the services which either might have done it, if their different geniuses had been properly attended to in their first destination. Indeed the good of the public had no small share even in those actions of Sir George's which are generally looked upon as merely of a private nature; for when he introduced young people into life, he was in good measure guided by general utility, regulating his choice of their occupations by what was of greatest use to mankind, and wherein additional hands was most wanted; and these are so various, that it did not interfere

ferred with his attention to the several geniuses of these fortunate youths.

From all whom he thus took under his care, and were placed at too great a distance for him to see them, he required a letter every two months, to acquaint him with their health, their progress, and their wants; and he never failed returning answers, wherein he gave them every kind encouragement, mingled with such advice and instruction, as he thought their dispositions stood most in need of, or was by their situations rendered most necessary. This method not only served to impress their particular duties strongly on their minds, but kept alive their hopes of his future favour, and their belief of his kind care for their welfare, continuing a dependance on him which could not fail proving of great service to them, both as a restraint on their inclinations to evil, and an encouragement to their virtues. It is true, it occasioned him no small business,

ness, the answering so many letters took a good deal of time, but as it was spent in the purposes to which the whole was dedicated, it only made so many steps in his regular walk of life ; and he could regret no employment that did not lead him to stray from the chosen path.

I will not deny, but Sir George and lady Ellison frequently wished they could pass more time in each other's society, separated with regret, and looked forward with impatience to the hour that would restore them to the conversation they had quitted with pain : Human frailty will make the best people feel they fall very short of perfection ; but these tender sensations, which never were given way to, however uneasy at the time, were far from being a misfortune to this worthy couple ; the interruptions of idle pleasures, or turbulent amusements, will sometimes deaden affection, for when the spirits are weary even love will sicken ; but it never suffers

fers any diminution from having its indulgences suspended by humanity. If Sir George and his lady parted with regret when benevolence called for their attendance, impatience to renew their conversation gave a double joy to their meeting, the cause of their separation made them behold each other with still additional esteem; and when they mutually related the manner wherein they had employed the hours of absence, the poverty or sickness they had relieved, the timorous doubting minds they had encouraged, the afflicted hearts they had comforted, or the ignorant understandings they had instructed, tenderness was heightened by veneration, and the affection, which in the happiest pair is merely human, seemed in them to be divine; and in reality was so in a good degree, being mingled with that spark of divinity imparted from above, that benevolence and love, which however now defaced, still shews how
man

man might once be properly called the image of his Creator.

Nothing is more conducive towards preserving affection than what prevents a married pair from continuing in each other's company after they are weary of it. Conversation will sometimes flag among the most ingenious and most affectionate; but if it happens frequently, the dulness it occasions is apt to be tacitly charged on each other; and an apprehension that the next day may be deadened by the same weariness goes a great way towards producing it, as the fear damps the spirits of both: thus what would be almost unavoidable in the same connection with any other persons, grows to be considered as some particular deficiency in each other. From this evil Sir George and his lady were secured by the very frequent calls of benevolence, and the various interruptions occasioned by the business in which humanity engaged them:

as therefore they were strangers to satiety, they continued to feel the impatience of lovers, and were ingeniously inventive to procure little snatches of each other's conversation, to enliven the long interruptions they could not, consistent with duty (or at least with their notion of it) avoid; for lady Ellison would have been sorry to have fallen short of Sir George in humanity, a virtue which she possessed in a great degree, and found the source of inexpressible pleasure, not only from the benevolence of her heart, but from perceiving how much it endeared her to him.

Her sphere, indeed, was different and more minute; but if her charities were less considerable in expence and in their various consequences, they were however very important, as they administered to the happiness, or at least comfort of many. Her attention was more particularly directed to her own sex. From her every
poor

poor woman was sure, during her lying-in, to receive all the assistance and conveniences that could administer comfort in her state: she supplied her with cloathing for her child; and pitying the sufferings of such poor babes, through the intolerable custom of lacing them up almost as soon as born in stiff stays, a practice, though discontinued among persons of higher rank, still prevalent with the poor, who make the little wretches yet more miserable, out of cruel œconomy, allowing in the height of their stays for two or three years growth; I say, pitying the little sufferers, she prevailed with the parents to permit her to substitute waistcoats, and continued to supply them with such till they grew near woman's estate, only making them somewhat stiffer as they advanced in size, being as great an enemy to the flatternly appearance of too unconfined a waist, as to the impenetrable boddice worn by the common people in the country. This may seem a trifling circum-

circumstance, but was much otherwise in effect, as it proved of great service to their health, and rendered them strong and well-shaped; in this last article the consequence was remarkable, for in fifteen years after she began this practice, there was scarcely a crooked young person to be seen within ten miles of her house: this gift not being confined to the poor; for, though not without difficulty, she prevailed with even the richest farmers to accept it from her, and as an inducement to them to do so, she herself made the waistcoats she gave them, that being her own work might seem to stamp a value upon them. Her attention to children was still more minute; for to prevent their little bodies from being more full of wounds than the anatomical figure in an almanack, through the awkward hands which dress them, and seem to look upon them rather as pin-cushions than as creatures endued with feeling, she distributed dresses for new

born infants that did not require one pin, and even courted people to accept them.

Lady Ellifon was as careful of the minds of her young female neighbours as of the bodies of the children; and as assiduously endeavoured to preserve the purity of the one, as the ease of the others. Every girl, who at fifteen was sober, modest, industrious, and cleanly, she formally received under her protection, and gave her on the occasion a scarlet ribbon, which was afterwards worn on Sundays, as a distinguishing mark of lady Ellifon's favour. These young women were called in the neighbourhood Lady Ellifon's Maidens; and it was well known, that whoever married them with her approbation, which was easily obtained by an honest, industrious man, was sure of receiving in dower with his wife furniture for a cottage, a cow, a pig, a male and two females of different sorts of poultry, a decent sober wedding-dinner

dinner for themselves and their parents, and to the bride more particularly was given a neat linen gown, with every other part of apparel suitable to it, as her bridal garments. This portion seldom failed of getting these maidens good husbands, and the rather as it was a testimonial of their good qualities; and their protectress's favour was known to be the source of still farther advantages, if after marriage they continued to deserve it. The scarlet ribbon became esteemed as a badge of great honour among them; if any one presumed to wear the colour to whom lady Ellison had not given it, the outcry against her assurance and presumption was so great, that she was reduced to lay it aside, and appeared more discountenanced than the jay stripped of his borrowed feathers. If a young man was inclined to marry, he was directed more by the top-knot than by the face in his choice of a wife, that being the first object of his attention. If youthful levity

at any time led one of these girls to be a little too free in her conduct, if she appeared flatteringly in her dress, was remiss in her business, or neglected going to church, if a friend asked her what was become of her ribbon, the recollection never failed producing an amendment; nor was lady Ellifon ever obliged but once to withdraw this mark of favour, and that not till emulation had excited all the young girls in the neighbourhood to aim at the conduct which procured it. By its becoming general it at length grew no distinction, and thereby lost so much of its influence, that one of these young women behaved with great indiscretion, and lady Ellifon thought it necessary, for examples sake, to order her to return the ribbon, that the rest might not be disgraced by a seeming companionship with her. The girl hoped no worse consequences would ensue from the withdrawing of lady Ellifon's favour than the loss of the pecuniary advantages attending it, but

but she soon experienced effects still more mortifying; for she received such frequent marks of contempt, and was so continually reproached by her friends, that not enduring to live in a neighbourhood where she was despised and neglected, she went into a distant county; a lady, at the secret desire of lady Ellison, having promised, by means of a friend who lived there, to procure her a service, and give her the means of regaining her character; which she did so effectually, that marrying near the place where she had lived in service, lady Ellison's bounty reached her, and added comforts to those naturally attending a reformation. The disgrace of this young woman revived the the people's sense of the honour of their protectress's favour, and made it as much valued as at first, though by the virtues it had encouraged it was become so general.

Instead of forming schools for girls,
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with the ladies of Millenium Hall to establish some of the two lower ranks in their neighbourhood, where they boarded the children they took from overburdened parents, and those to whose orphan-state they chose to supply the want of parental care. The visitation of these schools was one of lady Ellison's constant duties, and a most pleasing employment, as she saw the school-mistresses endeavour to succeed equal to her warmest wishes; and anticipated in hope the great benefit the rising generation in that neighbourhood would reap from so useful an institution.

C H A P. VII.

IT is unnecessary to say, that persons who were so careful of the children of others, paid a regular and extreme attention to the education of their own; which in every respect answered their desires: both their own children and the little Tunstalls, who by Sir George's behaviour would have

have been thought to owe their being to the same father, as well as mother, proving remarkably capable of, and inclined to improvement. Their persons, particularly all the girls, except the youngest Miss Tunstall, were as fine as their understandings; the eldest Miss Ellison, especially, was compleatly beautiful, and though the rest fell somewhat short of her in that respect, yet they were endued with such various attractions that the inferiority was little remarked, except at first sight, or by those who nicely examined and compared their features. Their tempers were equally sweet and gentle, though they differed in their dispositions, the eldest being of the gravest turn, her understanding both solid and delicate, her taste true and refined; and the particular notice which her uncommon beauty very early excited, could not prevent her natural modesty and humility from deviating into bashfulness. Their second daughter was excessively lively, and by no

means deficient in judgment, though her most distinguishing talent was wit; but it was so corrected by good nature, that it was a constant amusement to her intimates, and gave offence to no one. In this, however, she was excelled by the youngest Miss Tunstall, whose vivacity was so unbounded as frequently inclined her mother to think that the ravages a very severe small-pox had made in her face was no small blessing. If the flattery of the world, and the intoxicating pleasure of being admired, had been united with her natural disposition, lady Ellison thought it too probable the good sense, of which she had an uncommon share, must have been quite borne down by the torrent of her vivacity; but, fortunately, the extreme plainness of her face, amidst so many sisters, among whom even the least distinguishable could not but be allowed pretty, made her much disregarded, and in some measure damped the redundancy of spirits which, if animated by

by vanity, might have proved dangerous.

Sir George and lady Ellison were careful by their kind notice to make her so far amends for the neglect shewn her by others, as to prevent her being too sensibly mortified; and as soon as she was of an age to be influenced by reason, endeavoured to turn the disadvantage of her person to the benefit of her mind, not attempting to conceal from her the plainness of her face, but trying to reconcile her to it, and instilling into her a desire of cultivating her understanding. They shewed her that ‘ public diversions could have ‘ no charms for her, as instead of pleasures they would yield her nothing but ‘ mortification and disappointment; that ‘ it was highly probable she must always ‘ remain in her single state, as her fortune would not be sufficient to make ‘ the other sex overlook her personal defects:’ and then used every argument

to convince her, how far she perhaps was from being a sufferer in point of happiness by these circumstances, which in the eyes of many might not appear favourable to it. The turn they wished to give to her mind, by thus teaching her a true knowledge of herself, was towards an ardent desire of improving her understanding, whereby she might be so well provided with amusements as to find no want of the pleasures she could not obtain. Her extreme vivacity naturally disposed her to dissipation; her apprehension was quick, but her attention was small; nothing, therefore, but what would give her somewhat of a graver turn could prove effectual to the end they aimed at; and they qualified the mortification such remonstrances might give her, by shewing even more tenderness for her than for her sisters, and taking every means of encouraging her, which soon compensated in her opinion for the neglect of others.

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They had the satisfaction of finding their aim fully answered. Miss Louisa, that was her name, saw there was much reason in what they said; the little notice taken of her proved that she must extract her chief happiness from herself, and that private friendships and home amusements must be the principal sources of her pleasures. Vanity (for she was not without her share of it) corroborated what reason advised. She could not endure the thought of leading a trifling and insignificant existence, while her sisters were rendered considerable by various attractions: she wished to be distinguished too; but this was a laborious task. In general, it would be easy to outshine in accomplishments a whole family of beauties, but this was not the case with the Ellisons; their personal charms proved no impediment to their mental improvement. Their parents were not afraid of obscuring the lustre of their eyes by employing them in reading, nor thought

application and serious study would fade the bloom in their cheeks; on the contrary, they imagined their eyes would beam forth more intelligence, and a more animated variety enliven their complexions, by having their minds stored with useful knowledge. If they wished to preserve Miss Louisa from the desire of admiration, they were no less solicitous to arm her sisters against the ill effects of it. The more sensible they were of their daughter's beauty, the more assiduous were their endeavours to leave the young ladies as little leisure as possible to think of it; and as they were convinced of the impossibility of preventing their finding pleasure in admiration and flattery, they thought it very necessary to qualify them for pleasures less exposed to the destroying hand of time, and save them from the trifling, insipid, and dispirited old age which so soon overtakes women whose only perfections are comprized in their faces, whose very life seems to lie in their beauty, and one might almost venture

ture to pronounce extinct when that fades; and on this principle a new kind of bill of mortality might be justly composed: as for example, of late hours, forty-eight; of morpew, five; of pimples, twelve; of their thirtieth year, twenty-six; of their thirty-fifth year, after a tedious decay, sixty-seven; together with many other of maladies mortal to beauty. The Ellisons, not chusing to have their daughters existence circumscribed within such narrow bounds, had rendered them no less conspicuous by their accomplishments than they were by their persons; and though not neglectful of external grace, yet most assiduously cultivating mental acquirements. To excel excellence must be allowed difficult, and yet this was Miss Louisa Tunstall's aim; nor was she unsuccessful. By the hours she stole from sleep, and those she gained by declining the company of persons from whom she could expect no improvement, and who her parents visited only in regard

to the necessary civility which vicinity required, she obtained so much time, and so industriously employed it, that she united in herself the various accomplishments wherein her sisters separately shone. Some of them arrived at great perfection in drawing, others in musick; she excelled in both. They were mistresses of the French and Italian languages; she had added to them both Latin and Greek, before she was twenty-five years old. They were well instructed in geography and astronomy, as far as could be learnt of the latter without a knowledge of mathematicks; she added to these geometry. They had gone through an extensive course of history, and all polite reading; she, beside, had made considerable advances in philosophy. The very extraordinary quickness of her apprehension, for her vivacity being all turned to study gave both vigour and quickness to an understanding naturally strong, much facilitated her arduous task; and she found so much pleasure in the pursuit
of

knowledge, that she frequently considered as an happiness that her form was such as did not deserve any share in her attention. She reaped so much solid satisfaction from her studies, that she stood in no want of the approbation of the multitude, and therefore had not the least desire to exhibit her learning; she felt it sufficiently its own reward, though known only to herself; and was not vain of her excellencies, as she considered that she was prompted to acquire them, by a sense of her deficiency in the article most valued in a person of her sex. In one particular, indeed, she could not excel her sisters, and that was in purity of religion and morals, for all possible care had been taken to instill the principles of the most rational piety into their very hearts, and dispositions good as theirs could not fail being most effectually influenced by the union of such precepts and examples.

Nor was it possible to say which of all these young ladies was most tenderly dutiful

ful to her parents, or most affectionate to her brothers and sisters. They were entire strangers to envy; Miss Louisa would with pleasure assist in adorning their lovely persons, and they with delight observed her extraordinary accomplishments, which they attributed to her superior powers, and candidly admired, though they wished themselves capable of rising to the same excellence. Envy is founded on competition; they were preserved from it by a persuasion of her superiority of understanding; and she had been made so well acquainted with her own person, that she had entirely excluded it from her thoughts, where she was well convinced it did not deserve to hold any place; and would as soon have envied the throat of the nightingale or linnet, as the beauty of her sisters, so foreign did it seem to any thing to which she could form pretensions. And lest she might feel any mortification from thinking that after the death of her parents, she should by living single, as is usually

usually the case, be reduced to a very small income, while her sisters might by marriage raise themselves to a splendid situation, Sir George frequently declared, that although he would give his daughters (for he made no distinction between those Lady Ellison had by Dr. Tunstall, and his own) only seven thousand pounds each in marriage, yet to any that lived single, he would add an annuity of 200 l. per annum, beside other advantages. He by no means wished his daughters to remain unmarried, but he feared no such consequence from this declaration, as he had too good an opinion of them to believe they would marry only for pecuniary motives.

Sir George considered marriage as a state commanded by God, and very useful to the community; he respected it therefore both on religious and political motives; always endeavoured to promote it with propriety, and heard with pleasure that any of his friends had entered into
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it with virtuous and rational views. He with great joy received letters from Mr. Manningham and Miss Almon, in the fourth year after they were settled in Jamaica, asking his approbation of their intended marriage; at the same time submitting their inclinations to his direction, to whom, as to one who had been more than a parent to them, they thought not only deference but all obedience due. He joyfully hastened their union, and accompanied his approbation with considerable presents; for though no man's words were more sincere than Sir George's, yet he thought them of so little value, that he always took care to accompany them with something he imagined of more solid worth.

Sir George's life was so uniform, that I shall not undertake to give a detail of his actions year by year. I have said enough (perhaps my readers will say too much) to give an idea of the general nature

ture of them. To enter into more particulars of his beneficence might be tedious. The distresses which seem highly important to those who feel the pains arising from them, or the pleasure of relieving them, would often appear trifling to a reader; and as in the principal articles there is generally great similitude between one case and another, the sameness would tire in narration, though in execution, no variety is wanting to make the joys arising from beneficent actions always delightful; novelty is not requisite here, every relief is given with heightened satisfaction, from a recollection, that it has pleased the Almighty to empower the hand to administer frequent consolation to similar distress.

Year after year passed away in the execution of the plan of benevolence I have already described; the ardour of their humanity never cooled, and the various blessings it produced were ever increasing, by the good success of the means they pur-

purſued. Wherever they directed their obſervation, they beheld happineſs, as it were, of their creating, and felt their hearts expanded with rapturous gratitude to the Being which had ſo graciously beſtowed on them the means and the inclination of enjoying ſuch transcendent pleaſure; a goodneſs which humbled them to the greateſt degree; for they felt themſelves unworthy of the favour ſhewn them, and were ſenſible they made a moſt imperfect return for ſo much mercy; ſo far were they from taking pride in actions, the motive to which, as well as the power, was given them from above, and the imperfections in the performance only was their own: imperfections perceived by no one elſe, for thoſe whoſe eyes were not opened by the ſame gratitude to, and love of the giver of all good, could not diſtinguiſh the failures which were viſible to them, and inſeparable from the beſt human actions.

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However pure and warm the piety that glowed in Sir George's and Lady Ellison's breast, it was not of that rigid sort, that inclined them to seclude their children entirely from the world, they only desired to preserve them from its vanities and follies. When, in order to perfect them in external accomplishments, it seemed necessary to carry them to the metropolis, they went there yearly; though it was the most disagreeable duty they had ever performed, not from want of taste for the society, or the rational amusements which it afforded them, but as it broke into their established course of life. They feared that, notwithstanding all their precautions, some person might suffer by their absence; that by the delay of relief a distress might be prolonged, or for want of their watchful eye, and repeated instructions, some irregularities might be indulged, which their presence would have suppressed; or virtue might sicken from the want of daily encouragement.

But

But after the first year of these London journies, they found a means of rendering them more satisfactory. Sir George Ellifon's sister was not unworthy of such a brother; she was a woman of excellent understanding, and admirable conduct, improved by all advantages of education, and long intercourse with the polite world. Her husband had for many years enjoyed a post of great honour and emolument under the government, but by a change of ministry was dispossessed during the first winter Sir George spent in London. This event made so considerable an alteration in their circumstances, that they found it necessary to retire into the country; a change not perfectly eligible to them, who had so long been habituated to a town life, and by drawing much rational and worthy society to their house, had rendered it extremely agreeable. This opened to Sir George, a means of gratifying both himself and them. He offered to his sister his house in town during nine months

months in the year, without interruption; and requested that during the other quarter she and her husband with their family would be his guests, only asking in return that she would take the care of his daughters during such part of it as he and Lady Ellison should chuse to be absent. He knew they could not be placed under a better guide; and made easy by this well placed confidence, he and Lady Ellison divided their residence during those three months between London and Dorsetshire, never being both absent from their country house above a fortnight at a time; while their daughters continued constantly in town during the three months, except Miss Louisa, who was indulged in her inclination to accompany them in every excursion into the country. Thus Sir George received much gratification from his brother-in-law's loss; and at the same time took from him the most disagreeable of its consequences. This couple, now more at leisure, likewise made

made them longer visits in the summer, than his necessary residence in town had hitherto permitted.

That season of the year always brought a great increase to their family. The young Blackburns then accompanying Mr. Ellison and Mr. Green, their tutor, to Sir George's during the usual recess at college. The Marquis, and his brothers, who were at the same university, visited their father at the same time; Mrs. Blackburn and her daughters, (Mr. Blackburn being dead) usually met the young gentlemen at Sir George's, and passed good part of the vacation with them. The duke of ——— and Sir George at these seasons were still more than at others connected, though they always lived on the most intimate terms, but on these occasions they almost constituted one family; much to the satisfaction of all the parents, though indulgence to the young people was the principal motive, all of them
re-

respecting and loving Sir George as their father, in gratitude to his having so long acted the part of one towards them all. He received fresh pleasure at every return of this season, by observing the improvement of these worthy youths, whose merit seemed to enforce the benefits of a good education, as one could not expect that by nature so many should prove equally deserving. Their understandings, both in turn and extent, differed a good deal, and consequently their advances in learning; but in their virtues there was great equality; and such entire affection reigned through the whole, that it would have been difficult to discover which were allied by blood.

But pleasing as this society was to Sir George and Lady Ellison, they never suffered it to engross any of the time before allotted to the duties of humanity. Every one knew those were their first engagements, and none could wish to intrude on

a destination they could not fail of approving.

C H A P. VIII.

ONE summer, when this society was all met together at Sir George Ellison's, Mr. Lamont arrived unexpectedly. He had spent several years abroad ; and had not been long returned into his native country, before he determined to make a visit to Sir George, who received him with great pleasure. Lamont, on enquiring after his former fellow traveller, heard such an account of his extensive charities, and of that series of benevolent actions, to which he seemed to have wholly dedicated his time and fortune, that he expected to find an amiable recluse ; and was not deterred from his design by that expectation ; being so wearied with a search after amusement, and the pursuit of variety, that he thought with pleasure of spending a little time in quiet and contemplation,

temptation, to both which he was yet a stranger ; but was greatly surpris'd at being introduced into a company of between twenty and thirty persons ; and still more so, when he learnt that the greatest part of them were lodged in Sir George's house. Instead of the serious, though respectable scene, his imagination had represented to him, he found he had entered the seat of rational mirth, and decent festivity ; a pleasing cheerfulness sat on every countenance, and openness of conversation reigned universally ; every individual of the company seem'd happy in themselves, and delighted with all around them ; but more particularly the master and mistress of the house, whose every feature express'd sublime content. The joy Sir George felt at the sight of Lamont, inspir'd Lady Ellison with equal pleasure, and she welcomed him to that happy society, with an ease and cordiality, that shew'd she esteem'd no one a stranger

ger or indifferent to her, who had ever been a friend of her husband's.

Lamont congratulated himself on his good fortune, in having undertaken to renew an acquaintance, which promised to yield him more pleasure than he had before received from it; and when the hour of separation arrived, he declared that in all the countries he had been in, he had met with no society so agreeable. Years had much improved him; the giddiness of youth being past, thoughtless vivacity had given place to reflexion, and solidity of judgment well compensated for the loss of the flashy fallies which he and his companions had called Wit.

After Lamont had spent about a week in this family, he began to think the account he had received of Sir George's extensive charities was somewhat exaggerated; he saw him social and generous, but heard no mention of distresses, no hints
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at poverty relieved, no intimation of persons supported by his bounty. This induced him to enter into discourse with Mr. Green on the subject, from whom he soon learnt, that what had before been told him, fell considerably short of the truth; but that he could in no place have so little chance of hearing those charities mentioned, as where Sir George Ellison was; for he himself always avoided the topic, and his friends were too observant of his inclinations to speak on that subject if any stranger was present; when only themselves were by, to whom the detail was well known, they often made part of the conversation, as the various incidents relative to the objects of his bounty, afforded much matter for discourse.

Lamont was so well pleased with the company he had fallen into, that he could not resist reiterated invitations to prolong his stay; he found sufficient variety of

conversation to amuse him, amidst so large a number; the way of life was entirely new to him; the affectionate harmony which reigned among them, the regularity of the family both in their devotions and employments, was the more agreeable to him, for having never before been in so quiet and tranquil a scene. He began to wish to partake of the sober happiness of domestic life, and to think that to one who was weary of rambling, and had with so little substantial satisfaction passed above twenty years in dissipation, and sometimes guilty, but always trifling amusements, marriage was an eligible state; an opinion perhaps as much owing to the charms of Mrs. Blackburn, as to the real pleasure he found in that society.

Mrs. Blackburn, who had then been a widow above four years, was considerably passed the bloom of life, being thirty six years old; but she was one of those beau-

ties

ties whom time seems to have only lightly touched with his wings, just brushing off the bloom of youth, without leaving any of those deep traces which by his rougher touches he impresses on many faces. Her appearance would not have disgraced six and twenty; her complexion was still fine, gaining in delicacy almost as much as it had lost in resplendence by the fading of the roses in her cheeks. Her face, naturally small, and inclining to round, was still free from all lines that could betray want of youth; the easiness of her mind seemed to have preserved her from any deep impressions, and her situation had perhaps had its share herein. She had been exposed to so many disagreeable circumstances, that she had never continued long enough in a state of mirth to have any of those laughing traces worn, which, though not unpleasant, as they appear as much the lines of happiness as of age, are yet very destructive to beauty; and the bluntness of her

sensations had made her distresses sit so lightly upon her, that the uneasiness she suffered made no lasting impressions on her countenance, which was as free from the lines of anguish, as from those of mirth. She still preserved the same delicacy of person that had in youth distinguished her, and to which probably was owing much of her youthful air. However, Lamont could not be deceived as to her age, how far soever appearances were in her favour, all her children making part of the society he was in, and her eldest son was then avowedly eighteen years old; but with fewer prejudices in her favour than he had conceived, he might reasonably enough have allowed, that the age which is not discoverable in the person, ought not to be considered as a fault, since it can scarcely fail of having good effects on the mind; beside that she was in reality, as well as in appearance, younger than himself.

Lamont's

Lamont's particular attention to Mrs. Blackburn was soon observed, though silently, by the company ; but they as little expected it to have any serious consequences as he did, till the young people being on their return to college, Mrs. Blackburn had fixed the day for her departure, which was about two months after Lamont's arrival among them. He then began to grow a little grave ; and after having appeared particularly thoughtful for two days, made Sir George acquainted with his inclinations, and desired he would use his interest in his favour with the widow.

Sir George was pleased with the prospect of having his friend fixed in their neighbourhood ; and had so good an opinion of him, as to believe he would make Mrs. Blackburn very happy, who would be rendered more sensible of his merits, by the comparison she must unavoidably make between him and her former husband.

band. He thought, indeed, she might live as happily by continuing in her state of widowhood, but that depended on her own opinion; and if she chose to hazard second nuptials, he believed she would not easily make a better choice. He therefore undertook the office with which Lamont had entrusted him, only disclaiming all attempts to influence her.

Mrs. Blackburn had remained longer ignorant of the impression she had made on Lamont, than she could have done had it happened earlier in life. A stranger to coquetry even in youth, she had for some years ceased to imagine a possibility of any man's being in love with her; and could consider herself as nothing but an object of indifference, when she beheld a very pretty daughter on the verge of womanhood, for the eldest Miss Blackburn was near fifteen, blooming and lovely, as amiable in mind as in person, having all her mother's gentleness and sweetness

ness of temper, with more strength of understanding, and tenderer sensibilities. Such a daughter might well exclude all thoughts of conquest from her mother's mind ; but Lamont's behaviour had been sufficiently intelligible to excite some suspicions in Mrs. Blackburn of his uncommon attachment, before Sir George explained the commission upon which he was sent ; yet she was somewhat surprised to find the prepossession she saw he had conceived in her favour productive of so serious a consequence.

When Sir George had delivered his friend's proposal, Mrs. Blackburn desired him to give her his advice upon it. Sir George immediately considered Lamont's suit as granted, believing that if a woman of thirty six years old, with children grown up almost to maturity, hesitates on such an occasion, she will not very long resist a lover's importunity. He suspected that she who in such

circumstances asked advice, wished for a sanction to her marriage. But Sir George, with all his good nature, was a little perverse on this occasion, and refusing to advise, referred her to her own inclination; only observing, that if she had any thoughts of a second marriage, she might not have an opportunity of entering into it on such advantageous terms, Lamont being a man of sense and merit, of no improper age, and possessed of a considerable fortune, which beside the common recommendations of wealth, had still an additional value, as it was an undeniable proof of his sincere regard for her. Concluding with desiring her to consider what he had said on his friend's behalf, not as intended to influence her in favour of marriage, but only if she was disposed to relinquish a single life, to give his opinion how far Mr. Lamont was an eligible person.

This

This method of proceeding did not quite answer Mrs. Blackburn's wishes : She was well disposed towards Lamont ; she thought him agreeable and deserving ; his fortune afforded her some temptation, and his attachment to her was too flattering not to prejudice her a good deal in his favour ; but her heart had never been susceptible of that extreme tenderness which excludes prudence, and at the age she then was, would not have excused in herself a prepossession, strong enough to have resisted the advice of a friend. Had Sir George advised her to have refused this offer, she would have complied with a good grace, as she would then have judged propriety required it ; but she rather wished to have found him in a contrary opinion, that she might have given way to her choice with dignity. His backwardness in this point left her in a dilemma ; and not quite satisfied with seeming to chuse a second marriage, and yet unwilling to refuse it, she could not
bring

bring herself to give an explicit answer, but expressed a satisfaction in her present situation, that rendered her little inclined to change it; dropping at the same time some intimations of the advantages she should receive in point of fortune by an alliance with Mr. Lamont, if she could reconcile herself, at her age, to enter again into wedlock's bands, imagining it more decent to be influenced by the love of wealth, than by inclination for the owner of it.

Sir George could not forbear smiling at the difficulties into which his neutrality had reduced her; and did not press for a plainer answer to his message, foreseeing that Lamont must be very defective in importunity, if he did not soon obtain a full compliance. He therefore told his friend he had made known his inclination, but left him to discover the effects, as he imagined a lover had a better chance of obtaining a favourable answer,

answer, if he solicited it in person, than by the cold intervention of an unfeeling agent.

The event did not contradict Sir George's opinion. Lamont found it no very difficult matter to persuade the widow to relinquish her widowhood; not that she seemed over-ready to make him that sacrifice; conscious worth made her assume a dignity even in compliance; she would 'not unsought be won;' and preserved feminine decorum so well, that she appeared to yield to his reasons and importunity, rather than to her own inclinations. Sir George and lady Ellison found no small amusement in observing the progress of this affair, and Lamont was not weary of soliciting, as he perceived the event of his suit was not doubtful; for all the objections the lady made, were only intended to heighten his sense of the favour she at last intended to confer, and to keep up her own dignity; views which he was

too polite to wish to disappoint. But when all the impediments prudery suggested were removed, there remained another point of some delicacy to be settled, which was no other than a doubt that arose whether Mrs. Blackburn's children ought to be present at the celebration of her nuptials. She felt some pain from an apprehension of their censuring a second engagement, and was conscious she should not better become the character of bride, for being surrounded with sons and daughters who were almost grown up to maturity.

The Ellisons perceived a little awkwardness in this circumstance, but considered it as unavoidable, since in that situation she must in a short time appear, though it were to be avoided on her wedding day; therefore they judged it better to go through it with courage, and not increase any opinion of impropriety, by an appearance of a consciousness which
would

would only serve to confirm it. Accordingly Sir George took upon himself to acquaint the youthful part of the family with their mother's intentions, and to invite them to her wedding, which was to be celebrated at his house; and she accompanied his letters with others from herself, proper on the occasion.

Mr. Ellison had likewise an invitation to be of the party, that he might do the honours of the house to the young gentlemen, and also from a secret view of his father's, who wished to give him as frequent opportunities as possible of seeing Miss Blackburn; whose uncommon perfections had awakened in him a strong desire to render his son sensible of her charms; believing, that although he might get a wife with a much larger fortune, he could no where find one so likely to make him happy.

The name of a wedding carries with it a notion of festivity, which rendered the
invita-

invitation agreeable to the young people, and they were not ready to think an action could deserve censure which was to be performed at Sir George Ellifon's house, a prejudice in favour of their mother's marriage, which the behaviour of Sir George and lady Ellifon encreased; for they endeavoured to win over their approbation, by seeming themselves to approve the alliance. Lamont's conduct had no small share in making his new family perfectly well pleased with acquiring a second father, for he not only shewed them every affectionate attention, but made to each very handsome presents, well knowing that nothing captivates youthful minds more than well judged liberality; and Mrs. Blackburn had the satisfaction of seeing her children take pleasure in an event which in fact promised them some advantages, and could not possibly injure them in any respect, she having nothing in her own power.

Sir George did not mention to Mr.

Green

Green his wishes in regard to his son and Miss Blackburn till above a year after this marriage, and then had the mortification of hearing that Mr. Ellison seemed to have conceived an attachment to a young lady who lived near Oxford; Mr. Green telling him, that he purposed giving him this information if he had not thus led him to the subject, and enquiring whether he did not think it advisable on this account to hasten the young gentlemen abroad, as during their travels Mr. Ellison's passion would probably subside. But when Sir George, by his enquiries, found there was no objection to the young lady but her deficiency in fortune, he did not think it proper to alter his plan; saying, that if it might be allowed a reason for sending his son abroad before he was as capable as he wished of improving thereby, it was none for hastening the departure of the rest, who could not fail of suffering by the alteration; and that as the object of his son's affections

tions was amiable, deserving, and a gentlewoman, the continuance of his attachment was no real evil, as he might very well excuse want of fortune in a wife. He had, indeed, ardently wished to make Miss Blackburn his daughter, but as he had no other motive for that desire than a view to his son's happiness, he should readily relinquish a scheme which would no longer answer the purpose he hoped.

Sir George was very averse to the too common method of forming distant views, and anxiously fixing the heart on their accomplishment. He thought great solicitude about any worldly affairs sinful, as it is expressly forbidden us by him who has the best right to our obedience, and at the same time extremely foolish, as our ignorance of the effect any event will have on our happiness should teach us to submit the disposal of our lot to him who better knows what is really for our benefit, and only calmly and prudently, on
our

our parts, pursue what our reason tells us is most eligible; but contentedly resign our aim when we find we cannot attain it, reflecting that, through the imperfection of our reason, the greatest misfortunes might have arisen from the accomplishment of our wishes.

CHAP. IX.

HOWever philosophically Sir George might look on the common affairs of life, there were some occasions whereon he found it difficult to exercise the resignation he was sensible was his duty. His patience and fortitude were exposed to a very severe trial, after a long enjoyment of peace and happiness. Lady Ellison, in the midst of a constant course of good health, was seized with a scarlet fever, which brought her life into great danger, and raised the tenderest alarms in her husband's breast, whose thoughts had for
 some

some days been entirely engrossed by her illness, when they were called off to another subject ; for in passing by the parlour door, he heard his youngest daughter crying most violently, and between her sobs exclaiming, that ‘ she was sure the man ‘ told a cruel lie, for her brother Elli- ‘ son could not do so wicked, so bar- ‘ barous a thing.’

Sir George, startled by her expressions, and alarmed at her affliction, went into the room and enquired the cause. The girl, who was about nine years old, endeavoured to evade his question, having been charged to conceal what she had by chance over-heard ; but as Sir George urged his enquiry, and she had been bred up in an abhorrence of falsehood, she was reduced to tell him, that, as she was passing by the kitchen door, she heard a person saying to the servants, that her brother Ellison had killed a man, and was carried to prison for the murder.

Sir

Sir George was thunder-struck at so dreadful a tale; paternal tenderness whispered to his heart that it could not be true; but yet the sound of murder filled him with such inexpressible horror, that it was some time before he had power to enquire into this strange affair of the servants to whom it had been related; nor did he receive any satisfaction from them. The account they gave him was, that the master of a little inn in that parish had been there, to enquire if they had received any bad news of Mr. Ellison; for a gentleman, who changed horses at his house, enquiring who was the owner of the adjacent handsome seat and fine park, and being told Sir George Ellison, a gentleman who rendered all the neighbourhood happy, cried out, 'Poor man! he has not a son at Oxford, I hope.' Being asked why he hoped so? answered, that, 'as he came through that town he saw a young gentleman conducted to prison, and was told his name was Ellison; that

' he

‘ he was son to a baronet, the worthiest
‘ man that ever lived, and that the young
‘ gentleman was committed for a mur-
‘ der ; adding, that no sight ever shocked
‘ him more, the extremest affliction being
‘ impressed on the criminal’s countenance,
‘ as well as on those of several young gen-
‘ tlemen who attended him.’

Sir George immediately sent to the inn-keeper, but could obtain no farther intelligence ; he said, the gentleman who had told him this story was himself ignorant of farther particulars, for being travelling with the utmost speed on account of business, had it not been for the uproar in the streets of Oxford, he should not have stopped long enough to have learnt even so much as he had related. As every one felt himself tenderly interested in all that concerned their general benefactor, the inn-keeper had taken alarm, and came to Sir George’s house to know if there was any truth in the
dreadful

dreadful story; and the servants had agreed to conceal it from their master, to avoid giving him possibly causeless sorrow, and at least an earlier grief than was necessary, had not his daughter's affliction made the discovery.

Sir George was in the utmost consternation; he could not forbear giving some faith to the report, and yet it seemed strange that Mr. Green should not acquaint him with so important an event, but leave him to receive the shock from accidental information. He was sensible his son's temper was naturally violent, but for many years had enjoyed the satisfaction of thinking all his passions were totally subdued by reason and humanity; yet he could not but fear that nature had in some fatal instant broken forth, and baffled all the effects of education. Had lady Ellison been in health, Sir George would have gone instantly to Oxford, rather than continue in his anxious state;

but so far from leaving her, he dared not even tell his apprehensions, convinced that the effects in her situation would be fatal; and was obliged to assume such a command over his countenance as would prevent her perceiving the sufferings of a heart oppressed to the greatest degree, for he loved his son with the utmost paternal fondness; but the virtue of his mind was such, that had it been put to his choice, he would rather have seen him carried to his grave, the untimely victim of sickness in the bloom of youth, than that he should have imbrued his hands in blood. Very difficult we may therefore suppose was Sir George's task, to conceal the extremest anguish the heart can suffer, under an air of chearful serenity; and it was rendered still harder by lady Ellison's being so much better that day as to know him perfectly, and to wish to have him constantly by her, finding the pains of sickness almost dispelled by his assiduous care and tender attentions, which if they did

did not make her quite insensible of her disease, at least reconciled her to it, by seeing how many delightful opportunities it afforded him of giving her undeniable proofs of an affection which constituted the happiness of her life. Had not Sir George entertained a hope that this dreadful story might prove false, he could not have supported so violent a restraint, and never found the hour of bed-time so great a relief, as he then was at liberty to give way to his affliction.

As soon as he heard this melancholy news he had dispatched a servant to Mr. Green at Oxford, to desire to know what grounds there was for such a report; but that gentleman had left the place before the messenger got there, and arrived the next day at Sir George's before noon.

Sir George was sitting by his Lady's bed-side, and endeavouring to dispell the fears she had conceived for his health,

from the pallidness of his countenance, which bore strong impressions of the agitation of his mind, and total want of rest, for he had not even been able to persuade himself to go into bed that night, when a servant called him out. He found Mr. Green on the stairs, who to his great vexation had perceived by the melancholy which sat on every face, that he was disappointed in his hope of giving the first information of the melancholy event; but the sight of Sir George, and the distress of mind he plainly saw he suffered, shocked him excessively. Sir George was unable to speak, but with trembling impatience seized him by the hand, led him hastily into his library, and throwing himself into a chair assumed all the fortitude he was master of, and desired Mr. Green to tell him the whole without preface or preparation, for since he had outlived the hearing his son was a murderer, there was no reason to fear any ill effects from relating the most afflicting circumstances.

‘ Dear

‘Dear Sir,’ said Mr. Green, ‘do not
 ‘call your son by so harsh a name; he is
 ‘indeed very unfortunate, but not guilty.’

A full pardon never gave greater joy
 to a condemned criminal than Sir George
 Ellison felt at those words. He rose
 from his seat in rapture, crying, Is my
 son then innocent? and with hands and
 eyes up-lifted, added with a lower voice,
 Heaven be thanked! A few tears of joy
 fell from his eyes, and growing more calm,
 he desired Mr. Green to proceed.

This gentleman told him, that, ‘had he
 ‘imagined the report of this unhappy af-
 ‘fair could have been brought him by
 ‘any other means, he would have hasten-
 ‘ed his journey, especially as he perceiv-
 ‘ed the relation given him had far exceed-
 ‘ed the truth; but hoping fame would
 ‘not be so great a babbler, he had delay-
 ‘ed setting out till he had brought his
 ‘pupil to a more composed state of mind,
 ‘and provided every thing possible for his

‘convenience. That he has killed a gentleman,’ continued he, ‘is certain; and what renders it still more grievous to him, that gentleman was his friend, and the father of the young lady to whom I told you he was so much attached; but the blow was accidental, as they were on a shooting party, in a wood where they had liberty from the owner to pursue their sport; nor would the misfortune have happened, but through the inexcusable carelessness of the deceased. The poor man paid the forfeit of his heedlessness on the spot. The consternation of the whole company was great, but your son’s grief was inexpressible. A surgeon was immediately sent for, but to no purpose, the shot had penetrated his brain, and there was no hope. Mr. Ellison immediately delivered himself up to justice, and was attended to prison by all the gentlemen who were of the party, by the Marquis, Lord John and Lord George Grantham, and the young

‘ young Blackburns ; who were all deeply
‘ affected by so melancholy an accident,
‘ and the extreme affliction it gave their
‘ friend.’

‘ An affliction, indeed,’ said Sir George,
‘ which no time can wholly eradicate ; for
‘ however innocent of intention, the
‘ thought of having deprived a man of
‘ life, of having robbed his friends of per-
‘ haps their greatest happiness, and pos-
‘ sibly sent him into eternity at a time
‘ when he was but ill prepared to meet the
‘ judgment on which his fate through all
‘ ages must depend, will ever hang heavy
‘ on the mind.’

‘ This misfortune,’ added Mr. Green,
‘ is certainly accompanied with very ag-
‘ gravating circumstances. Mr. Blanchard,
‘ that was the name of the poor deceased
‘ man, was, indeed, a bad husband, and
‘ a severe father ; but if his temper might
‘ reasonably be supposed to render his life

less dear to his wife and daughter, his extravagance had however made it necessary. He originally possessed but a moderate younger brother's fortune; his wife married him against the inclination of her friends, and for want of their prudent assistance had no settlements; the whole therefore of their fortunes were in his power, and in a few years he spent it all, and found himself reduced to live entirely on the income of a place, which had hitherto proved so insufficient for his support. This obliged him to retire into the country; and, to Mr. Ellison's misfortune, he fixed near Oxford. He was polite, and agreeable in company; which with the charms of his daughter, could not fail rendering his house very attractive, and making his conversation sought by people of the best fashion in the neighbourhood. With him perished the subsistence of his wife and daughter; and what is still more affecting to your son, by the hand of him whose

' whose great ambition was to be united
 ' in the tenderest ties to that daughter,
 ' if he could obtain your consent; for
 ' without it, he would contract no alli-
 ' ance, determined to sacrifice every incli-
 ' nation to your will. All the hope he
 ' had so fondly cherished of this happiness
 ' is now blasted; he cannot flatter himself
 ' that Miss Blanchard will ever behold
 ' without horror the murderer of her fa-
 ' ther; and what still more afflicts him is,
 ' the fear that they will not accept from
 ' so fatal a hand the support of which he
 ' has deprived them. He gave, however,
 ' into my care an hundred pounds, desir-
 ' ing me to find some means of conveying
 ' it to them for the supply of present exi-
 ' gencies, in such a manner as might pre-
 ' vent their suspecting from whence it
 ' came; but this I had not leisure to per-
 ' form, judging that after I had done my
 ' first services to my unhappy pupil, the
 ' most necessary point was to acquaint you
 ' with his misfortune, which I was deter-
 ' mined

‘mined to do in person, as it might prove most satisfactory to you.’

‘You well know,’ my good friend,’ replied Sir George, ‘that I never designed to controul my son’s inclinations, in a particular wherein his choice was so much more material than mine, but had I ever hesitated, this misfortune must have secured my consent, if the young lady’s can ever be obtained; as his marriage with her is the best reparation he can make either to her or her mother; but this is a thing not to be thought of now; time, especially if Miss Blanchard has any prepossession in his favour, may bring her to look on him rather as a companion in her misfortune than as the cause of it. I most sensibly feel his distress, but am glad he is so anxious to repair the evil he has innocently brought upon them, without which I should have thought him very deficient in generosity. If these unhappy persons scruple receiving

‘ceiving a pecuniary reparation from the hands of the son, they cannot refuse what they have, in honour, a right to require from the father.’

Sir George found his spirits greatly lightened by hearing his son was so entirely innocent; he compassionated his misfortune extremely, but when he considered him as free from guilt, he hoped the violence of his present affliction would soon abate; and he felt some comfort in learning that Mr. Blanchard’s faults were such as rendered his loss by no means irreparable to his surviving family.

After having enquired into every particular, Sir George returned to Lady Ellison’s apartment, with an happier countenance than when he left her; which was soon discovered by her watchful eye, and removed much of the anxiety she had been under for his health. Her fever was so much abated by the following day,

that Sir George sent Mr. Green back to Oxford, with a promise of being soon with his son; and every assurance that he thought could prove consolatory to him. He did not think it advisable to leave home without acquainting Lady Ellison with the cause of his journey, lest she might hear it in a manner, and from a person less proper, and be more shocked thereby, than he hoped she would be if related by him. This delayed his setting out a day or two longer than would otherwise have been necessary, as he feared causing too early an agitation in her spirits; but as soon as he thought it might be done with safety, he acquainted her with the affair in the least alarming manner he was able, and had the satisfaction of seeing her bear it as well as he could expect; but the truth was, she concealed the concern it gave her as much as possible from him, lest she should increase what she well knew he must suffer.

When

When this necessary step was passed, nothing retarded Sir George's journey; he repaired to Oxford with all speed, and directly visited his son in his prison, where he found him as conveniently accommodated as the place would permit, and attended by his friends, who kindly took all possible care that he should be little alone, till his mind were in a state that would render reflexion less painful. Sir George tried every means of reviving his dejected spirits, and promised to remain with him till his trial was over; which though a mere legal formality, where the innocence of the fact was so evident, yet was a shocking ceremony to him, who most severely lamented the accident.

Sir George found a way of administering still greater comfort to his son. He waited on Mrs. Blanchard, and expressing his concern for what she suffered by the misfortune of one his family, in a manner the least affecting that he possibly could,

could, he intreated her to compassionate the unhappy situation of the unfortunate cause of their sorrow, and to shew her generous pity by accepting all the reparation the nature of the case would permit, and thereupon produced a settlement of two hundred pounds per annum on Mrs. Blanchard, for her life, and one hundred per annum on Miss Blanchard for her life also; which he took the liberty of insisting on their receiving, as the certain token of their pardon.

The ladies were much surprized at this action, and knew not what part to take. They were entirely destitute of fortune, having little more than the hundred pounds which Mr. Green had contrived to remit to them, without their being able certainly to learn from whence it came, though they strongly suspected the generous hand to which they were obliged. Mrs. Blanchard was a woman of sense and merit; but by the long course of ill treatment she
had

had received from her husband, and the frequent pecuniary difficulties they had been under, her spirits and health were both so impaired, that she was not fit to struggle with poverty, yet knew not how to submit to so humiliating a support. Miss Blanchard was in a less helpless state. She had good health, lively spirits, and an excellent understanding; and though since her acquaintance with Mr. Ellison her employments had been of a more learned kind, conducted by his recommendation, and instigated by her desire to please him, yet she was well versed in all feminine business, and very capable of providing for herself; which, so far from looking upon as a degradation, she would have thought more honourable than living on the charity of another; but she was strongly influenced by an apprehension of lowering herself so much by a menial employment, as might ruin all her hopes of Mr. Ellison, to whom she was more attached by affection than even by interest;

rest; and whatever judgment might be formed by others, she imagined he would not think meanly of her, from knowing she was one of the objects of his father's bounty. This consideration in some measure conquered her reluctance. Necessity had equal power over her mother; and together with Sir George's pressing intreaties, that they would consent to the only thing that could alleviate the concern he and his son were under, at length determined them to accept of a provision from him; but they were very desirous of restraining his generosity within narrower bounds; Mrs. Blanchard insisting that an hundred pounds a year would furnish them with all the necessaries of life, and was more than they had any expectations of ever being possessed of after Mr. Blanchard's death, had he lived even many years longer. Sir George was the most obstinate man in the world when an act of generosity was in question; all the ladies

ladies could say was ineffectual ; he insisted the more pertinaciously for their resistance, and did not leave them till he obtained their full acquiescence in his request.

C H A P. X.

ALL Mr. Ellison's friends were of opinion that travelling would afford more relief to his spirits than any other means that could be used, and therefore represented to Sir George that it ought to be no longer delayed, to which he readily agreed ; and it was determined, that as soon as the trial was over, the young gentleman should be equipped and sent abroad. Mrs. Blanchard expressed an intention of leaving Oxfordshire, whereupon Sir George prevailed with her to remove to a small house in his neighbourhood, having some desire to be fully acquainted with the conduct and merits of her daughter, who he saw would in all probability become his also ; but she
thought

thought in decency she ought not to go thither till Mr. Ellison had left the kingdom ; for though she could not resent an action so far from his intention, yet she feared the world might censure an appearance of immediate forgiveness ; and indeed, notwithstanding her sense of his innocence, the sight of him could not but be extremely painful to her.

The solemn ceremony passed, Sir George left Oxford with Mr. Green, and all that gentleman's pupils ; but Mr. Ellison prevailed on Miss Blanchard to grant him an interview at a friend's house before his departure, where we may suppose (without any very good evidence of what passed) that he was not sparing of assurances of the sincerity of his passion, or of vows of constancy ; the less credible circumstance is that he kept them, notwithstanding all the dissipation of travelling, the temptations every country offered,

ferred, and the, so often, chilling effects of absence.

The Duke of — had no objection to his sons going abroad directly, and in a very short time after Sir George's return home, Mr. Ellison, the Duke's three sons, and the three Mr. Blackburns, set out on their travels, under the conduct of Mr. Green and Lamont, that gentleman having offered to accompany them, finding his wife well inclined to be of their party. As he was well acquainted with most countries in Europe, and had formed connexions with several persons of fashion in each, Sir George considered his offer as very advantageous to the young gentlemen; but as it was not judged so adviseable to carry the young ladies, Lady Ellison desired they would accept of her as a parent till their own returned; an addition to their family which was extremely acceptable to Miss Ellisons and Miss Tunstalls, between whom and
Miss

Miss Blackburns a tender friendship had been cultivated, as well as with the young Lady Granthams. Miss Blanchard, who with her mother settled in the neighbourhood as soon as the young gentlemen departed, was a pleasing addition to their society, and delighted with it. Greater happiness could not be found on earth, than was enjoyed by this family, who frequently received the most agreeable accounts of the progress their young friends made in their travels, and saw every thing about them go on to their utmost wish; and in this state we shall leave them, having already given so minute an account of Sir George Ellifon's actions, that my readers will readily excuse what would be little more than a repetition of his virtues, till the return of the travellers, which was a season of great joy to the whole neighbourhood; but none were more tenderly interested in it than Miss Blanchard, and the eldest Miss Ellifon. This young lady had always entertained a strong affection

tion for the Marquis, with whom she had in a manner been brought up, and the attachment was visibly mutual, beginning in childhood, and encreasing with their years, though he was ten years older than her. When he went abroad she had not compleated her fifteenth year ; and themselves, as well as those who observed their fondness, imagined their love was only such as might naturally be expected between persons bred up in all the intimacy of brother and sister ; but at his Lordship's return, his friends discovered what he had learnt during his absence, that his attachment was of a tenderer nature ; and Miss Ellison's heart soon appeared to correspond with his.

The Duke could not object to an alliance with one to whom he was so much obliged, and Sir George consented with pleasure. He with equal satisfaction compleated the marriage of his son with Miss Blanchard, whose conduct and conversation

tion had fixed her strongly in his esteem.

Sir George at the same time delivered up his accounts to Mr. Blackburn; as his father was dead, Sir George thought he might, without shewing inexcusable disregard to his good friend's will, anticipate the time of putting him in possession. By these accounts Mr. Blackburn found himself possessed of his whole estate, not only clear of incumbrance, but in excellent repair, much improved, and some thousand pounds in money; with very good fortunes assigned to each of his brothers and sisters, out of the accumulated produce of the estate; Sir George, according to his first resolution, not having appropriated the least part to his own use.

This was no sooner done, than Mr. Blackburn much surprised Sir George and Lady Elhson, by declaring the strongest affection

affection for Miss Louisa Tunstall, whose person had prevented any suspicion of that nature ; and, as I before said, she had been taught to relinquish all thoughts of making any favourable impressions on the other sex, and to fix her expectations entirely on 'single blessedness.' The most perfect friendship had visibly subsisted between her and Mr. Blackburn ; she had confined her affections within those rational bounds, and he had never declared any views beyond it ; determined to conceal his intentions till he was master of his estate, from an excess of delicacy, which made him fear lest he might be thought by that alliance to aim at entering sooner into possession. The uncommon qualifications of Miss Louisa, the excellence of her temper, heart, and understanding, had entirely captivated his affections, and given him such a prejudice in favour of her person, that although he perceived she had no beauty to boast, yet he thought it perfectly agreeable ; and indeed

deed the sense and sensibility which her countenance expressed, might to those who knew her intimately, compensate for the irregularity of her features, and the darkness of her complexion. As to her figure it was no way amiss, she was genteel enough, though not finely formed.

It is natural to imagine, that Miss Louisa's affection for Mr. Blackburn soon grew more tender, on finding herself the object of his fondest love; and she must have had little of her sex in her composition, if her vanity had not felt great gratification in so unexpected an event, which from the extraordinary merits of the young gentleman, gave extreme pleasure to all her friends.

The duke and dutchess of ——— with no small pain removed to the family-seat, where they could now afford to live in proper figure, having put their estate in excellent order, and saved fortunes for their younger children. For their second son,

son they bought a commission in the guards, and the youngest chose to take orders. The marquis and his lady fixed in the house the duke quitted, desiring to live in Sir George's neighbourhood, where his father and mother made them a yearly visit of no small length, in order to enjoy the society of their old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellison fixed their abode at a very moderate distance ; and Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn resided at his family-seat. Of his two younger brothers the one chose the profession of physic, the other of the law ; which had been the reason Sir George Ellison thought proper to give them the advantages of travelling, as it was at a time of life when it would not interrupt their studies, but improve their behaviour, and enlarge their understandings. The same motives had induced him to prevail with the duke of ——— to suffer lord John and lord George Granthams to be of the party ; an indulgence seldom granted to younger sons.

Some years after, this amiable society, large as it already was, received an increase from the arrival of Mr. James Ellison, his lady and family, and Mrs. Reynolds, who was become a widow. As they had given notice of their intention, Sir George had built them a house, by their desire, in the neighbourhood, there being then none to be hired thereabouts. Mr. Ellison had several years before remitted to Sir George the ten thousand pounds he had lent him, having raised a very considerable fortune. Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey (Sir George's sister and her husband) likewise passed much of their time with one or the other, to their mutual satisfaction; and though the society has been considerably decreased by the marriage of most of the young ladies of each family, yet they are so happily disposed of, that their parents cannot lament their absence: and as they practise the virtues they had learnt both from the instruction and example of Sir George and lady Ellison, their

their dispersion serves to extend happiness to a greater number of persons than could reach the knowledge of a man fixed like Sir George chiefly in one place, and indeed beyond what the fortune of one person could supply.

I think I cannot take leave of this worthy family at a better time, than when it enjoys the utmost felicity the world can afford, lest by some of those unavoidable misfortunes, which in the course of time must befall every mortal being, the scene may be overcast, and those who now are the happiest of mortals become objects of compassion; which would deprive us of a fair opportunity of quitting them, for I hope none of my readers would be able to bear the very thought of forsaking a friend in adversity.

F I N I S.